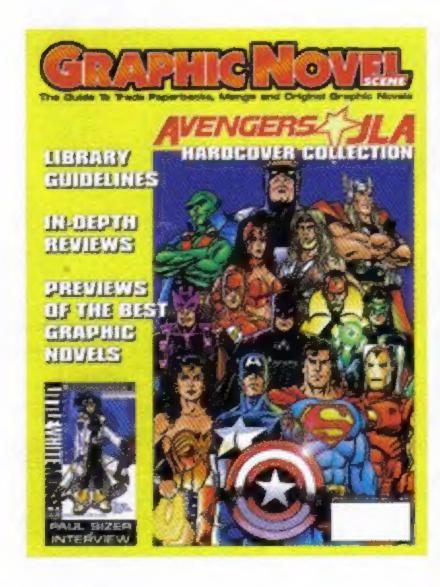
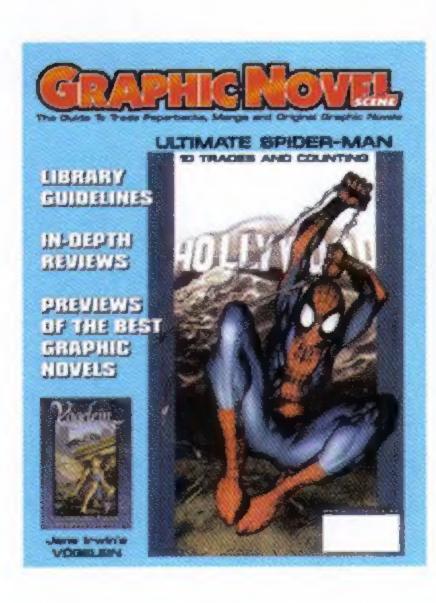
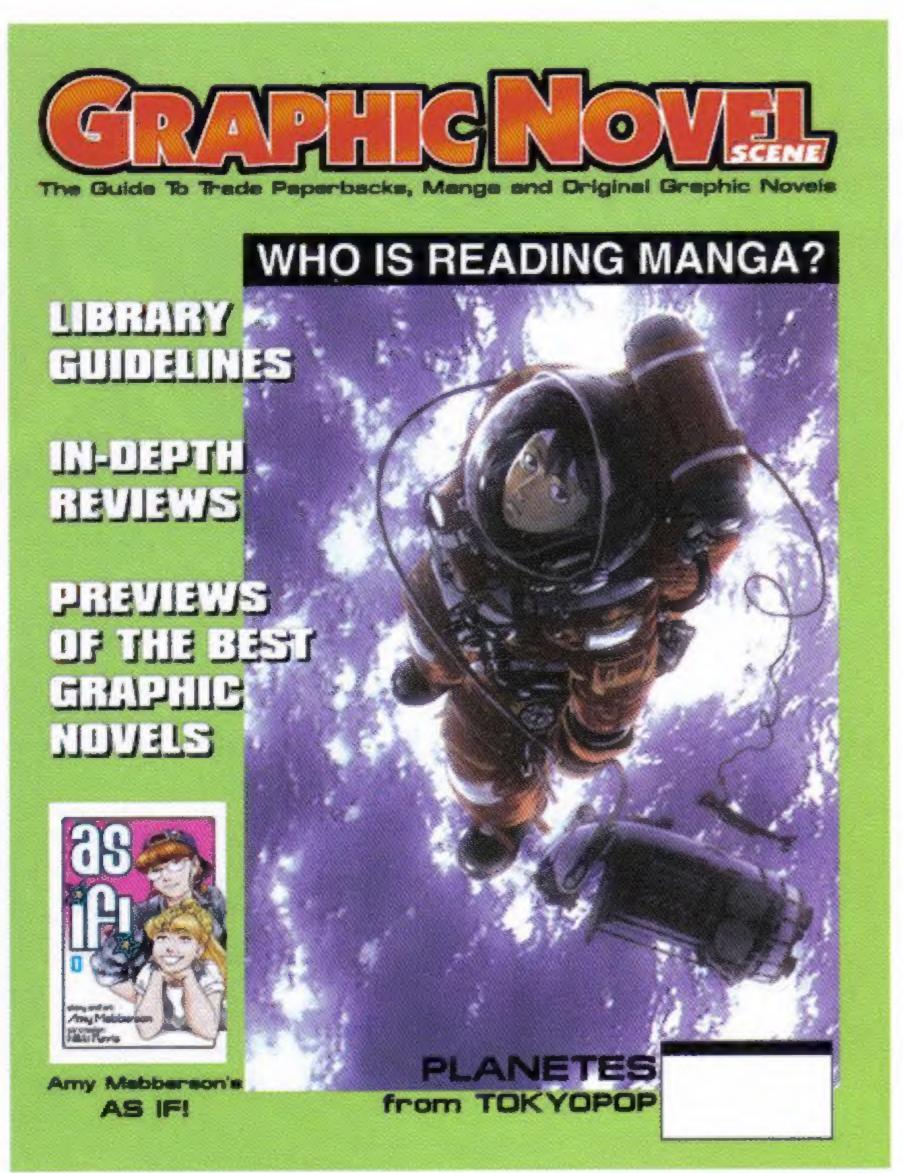


# The Guide to Trade Paperbacks, Manga and Original Graphic Novels!

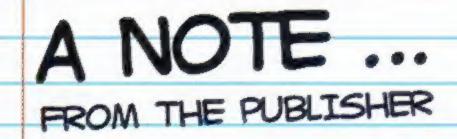
Graphic novels are the fastest growing segment of the industry and *GRAPHIC NOVEL SCENE* provides the info that comics readers want to know! What's in print? What's it about? Find information valuable to libraries and essential to comic book stores. Including news, reviews, a price guide and more.







### STAY INFORMED . . . DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!



A note...

As you read this column we are working on the next year's worth of Sketch Magazine. We hope to revisit a few old friends and meet a few new ones. We currently have Michael Turner and other Aspen Studio creators featured in a future issue.

Along with our renewed focus on featured creators, we plan to bring along a few new creators who want to offer their experiences, along with helpful articles and illustrations, of course.

This brings up a question that we are constantly asking ourselves. What kind of articles would you like to see here in the pages of Sketch? Are you interested in publishing your comics on the web? Do you want to learn more about digital coloring? Or lettering your pages? Or preproduction work? Now is the time to let us know.

We want to make sure that the information that we deliver is the kind of information that can help you. After all, the whole point of this magazine is to help our readers to reach their goals and enjoy their experiences in the comics field.

In this issue we visit with an old colleague of mine, Greg Land. I first met (and worked with) Greg when he was just getting into the comic book industry. I have followed and enjoyed his career ever since. Even though this feature was originally set up through CrossGen, Greg has now moved into the mighty Marvel mutant arena. Greg shares how he was able to break in along with some of his unique ideas on illustrating. Every creator laid it on the line in this issue of Sketch, from the Flying Fist Ranch of Beau Smith to the beautiful illustrations from Mitch Byrd. This issue is packed.



take care, Bob



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Comic books are a fun medium! Blue Line Productions' goals are aimed toward enhancing this art form - and others – through knowledge and quality art supplies. We try hard to make certain that you, the reader, have the comic book technique information you require for your personal enjoyment of this great field.

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#### Beau Smith's

# From The Ranch Where's The Beef?

It's like this - a hamburger without the burger. It's like an air conditioner without the electric cord. It's like Beau Smith without hair on his chest.

Somethin' is missin'.

That's the way I feel about most modern super hero comics today. I just read another one, and came away with a feeling that there is something missin' from this comic book that I just finished. The structure of the story was not there. The foundation had a bunch of cracks in it. It wasn't complete.

To this day I think some of the best super hero comics ever written were from Marvel Comics 1964 through 1969. Grab a copy of Marvel's Essentials and see just what I'm talkin' about.

When ya read these stories from the late 60's you'll see characters addressing each other by name. That makes it easy for the reader to know the character and where the dialogue is supposed to go. It gives motion to the words and direction.

You'll see purpose in the flow of panels. Your eyes will be drawn from one connecting panel to the next. The flow of the story will take you on a ride. With character dialogue, a past issue will be recapped without stealing you away from the action bein' given at present time.

Through the words of a bad guy you will feel the hero being constructed. The same goes in reverse for a hero. In just a few words he will sum up the wants of the bad guy. Enough to let you know the reason why he IS the bad guy.

Very few writers are doing this now. Chuck Dixon and Brian Michael Bendis are good at it. You can tell that they were raised on good Stan Lee and Roy Thomas scripts. They add just enough modern stuff to make it work today. But for the most part, writers today want the short cut. In doing so they cheat the readers that have chucked over almost \$4.00 for the comic book.

Stan Lee and Roy Thomas had a way of giving you a complete story, even in a three issue arc. Characters were set up without distracting from the story line. Panel grids were also used to the max. It wasn't unusual to see a nine panel grid on a page. The story moved at a pace that you had to hold on to your seat for dear life. You always got your investment back with interest. Never were you cheated out of your money that you laid out.

I'd love to see more substance get shoved back into super hero comics. There is an art of writing super hero comics. Some of these new guys need to learn to step up to the plate and hit the ball home. We're comic book readers, not mind readers. Set up the stories and your characters. Give us our money's worth. We demand it and have the right to do so. It's not the other way around.

Three of the best examples of the kinda story telling I'm talkin' about are shown in Amazing Spider-Man, The Avengers, and Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos. Pick any of these late 60's treasures and see just what ol' Beau is talking about. It's there for ya to see for yourself.

I also ask ya to pay more attention to the super hero books that you're readin' right now. Make sure you're getting your money's worth outta these guys. Don't get cheated. If you feel like you aren't getting your money's worth, then write to the editors and let em' know how ya feel. I promise ya they will pay attention to your written letter. Nobody sends em' letters anymore. They will read the letter you send. Do it!

Make your wants and desires known. It's the best way to get your point across, amigo. Let the publisher know what YOU want to buy, and what you aren't gonna pay for. It's time for them to stand and deliver on their promise of entertainment.

Tell em' Beau sent ya. From the ranch,

Beau Smith The Flying Fist Ranch P.O. Box 706 Ceredo, WV. 25507



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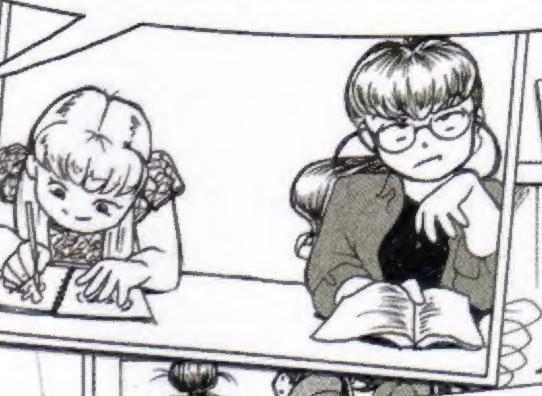


Wolverine by Greg Land. Wolverine @ and TM Marvel Comics.

bluelinepro.com

SO WHAT'S THIS BOOK ALL ABOUT, HUNTER?...
AND WHY DO THOSE
TWO LOOK KINDA FAMILIAR?..

SOON AS I STICK THIS LOGO DOWN, READ FOR YOURSELF, ANGE...



For the first time, the online adventures of high school friends Hunter and Angela are collected in print!





# Take My Breath Away

An interview by Bill Love

First DC, then Crossgen and now Marvel; all have been lucky to benefit from the talent of Greg Land. Whether it's his stunning cover images or his meticulously rendered interior pages, fans can't get enough. Breathtaking is an overused description, but does any other word come to mind when describing the work of Greg Land?

Sketch Megazine 7



**Sketch:** What is your basic training as an artist?

Greg: I've got a bachelor of fine arts degree from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. I pretty much got started thinking of a career in artwork when I was just a grade schooler. It's something that I always seemed to have a lot of interest in and seemed to excel at, I guess. Doing class projects in art always seemed to really get me excited. I know I won

some competitions in different grade schools art projects and that kind of thing.

Sketch: Many comic book professionals will say that they always wanted to be a comics artist, but you were thinking of a career in the art field – not necessarily just comics. When did you first become interested in comics?

I can trace my comic book Greg: collection back to when I was four years old. That's when I actually started collecting books. I used to cut them up. My Grandpa would get me these large Masonite boards and I would do paste-ups where I would actually create my own fight scenes from different characters I cut out of different books. So I've always had an interest in comics. Going to school I always thought how it would be great to draw comics as a living, but I knew absolutely nothing about it. I really didn't know much of anything about a career in art. It's just something I knew that that's what I did. I always drew. I'm not that great of a painter, but I took several painting classes in college to try and get better at it. I just always felt that I'd be in art - involved in it somehow. I guess my love was always illustration and I suppose comic books fall into that category of illustration. Although instead of doing single illustrations, you're constantly doing more illustrations that actually develop and tell a story.

Sketch: But when you were younger, you were open to learning about all types of art. Didn't you simply focus on copying from other comic book artists?

Greg: No. You know I had a really good art teacher in junior high school that I feel was pretty instrumental in me becoming an artist. He's one of the few teachers I had that didn't look down on comic book art. And his art classes were so much fun. He always geared things toward the imagination. We did a lot of still life projects. A still life drawing is one in which you set up objects and then you draw from life right directly on to the paper. I remember one of my favorites was I got to bring in a lot of my sports equipment -football helmets and cleats and such, and I set up a still life and did a drawing of that

**Sketch:** Was this a lot more fun than the traditional bowl of fruit?

Greg: Oh, exactly! I had other teachers later on that that's what we did – we drew bowls of fruit. I actually got into a little bit of conflict with those teachers because of the subject matter –maybe bowls of fruit excited that teacher, but it totally bored me, and I know some of the other students, to death. So it was nice to have my junior high teacher that was like, "you know, bring your own stuff in and set up your own still life." And by doing that, he created something of interest for us.

**Sketch:** But you could still learn the same techniques they were trying teach?

Yeah, because what you're doing is learning how to render volume - render shapes - to teach your eye - as you're looking at something, how to interpret that through your brain and put it down on paper. So, whatever you put down there is going to have shapes - there's going to be circular forms, rectangles, squares, ovals - so why not put something there that's actually fun to do? I remember in college we had to do something that was geared around Halloween and so I set up my own still life at home. I've got a lot of Halloween stuff - I put out one of my werewolf masks and I've got a skull with long hair and a few other things, and set up a still life. I had a blast drawing that.

Sketch: Going back to comic book influences – were you reading comics as a kid throughout high school and college, or did you get to a point

where you sort of gave them up for a while?

Greg: Even before I could read, my grandpa used to read the comics for me and I would follow along with the illustrations. I actually believe that's part of how I learned to read. He would read me the books and I could follow along and slowly start to pick up words and all that. I was

still into comics through junior high and high school. Once I hit college, you know you don't have a whole lot of extra money when you're paying for classes and books and everything else, so I kind of fell out of comic books at that point. There was a comics shop that actually moved within a few blocks of the campus and occasionally I'd walk down there when I had a free hour just to kind of look

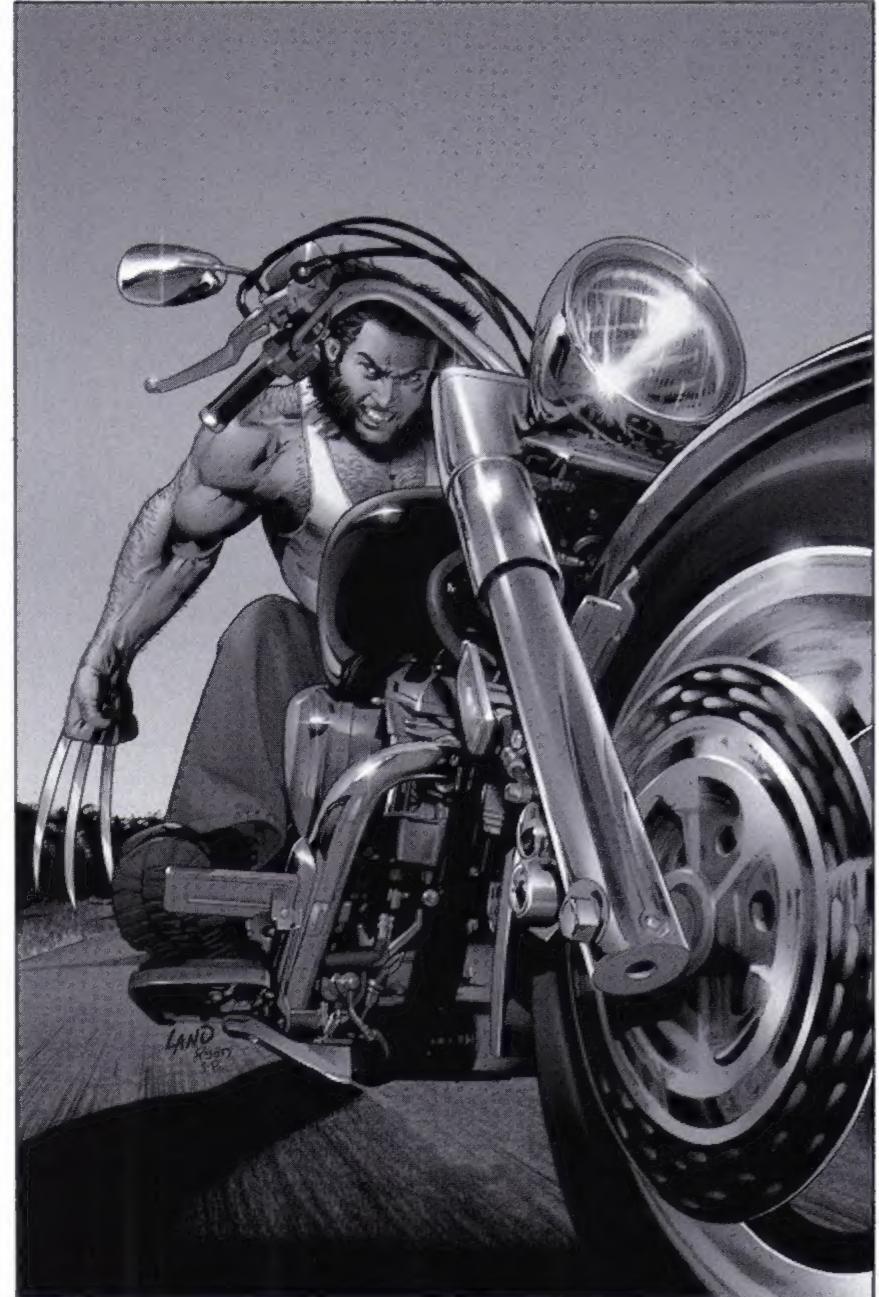


Illustration by Greg Land - Wolverine @ and TM Marvel Com



Somewhere about the time I got out of college or close to getting out of college, I started paying a little bit more attention to comics again.

**Sketch:** What was your first job in the art field?

Greg: My junior year of college I got a job with a screen print company there in Terre Haute and I worked at that job for ten years after I gradu-

ated college. They offered me a position after I graduated and so I took that and basically more or less let the idea of working in comics go at that point

**Sketch:** You were doing design work there?

Greg: T-shirts, sportswear – that type of thing. When you do that, you actually have to learn to draw a whole variety of things. One day I would be

doing a car design and complete that and then maybe I'd have to do a cutesy teddy bear type design for children and then we'd do sports related stuff with basketball, tennis shoes. You used to have to incorporate lettering, so I learned how to actually compose designs that way, which I think actually has helped me a whole lot in my comic career. I've learned how to design something that actually leaves space for lettering. In comics, you need to leave space for word balloons and logos. So that's come in handy.

**Sketch:** I'm sure it taught you quite the work ethic as an artist, also. A lot of people who go directly into comics don't necessarily have that 9 to 5 work experience.

Greg: That's something I got from my family. My parents and my grandparents had a strong work ethic. I don't know if that comes from being from the Midwest or if that's got any bearing on it or not. My parents and grandparents were all hard workers and I always seem to take a lesson from that. Nothing really comes easy in this world unless you're absolutely lucky and pick the right lottery numbers. It takes a lot of hard work and a lot of education to get you to the point you want to be. You know that obviously doesn't stop with doing artwork. That applies to anything. I think I would have had that approach to my career no matter what it was I was doing. It just so happens that for me it was artwork.

**Sketch:** Well, so you're fairly well established in a regular art career. What made you decide to pursue doing comics?

**Greg:** I was approaching 30 years old and it became obvious to me that

since I wasn't related to the owner of that screen print company, it was never really going to go anywhere. I decided at that time to start to develop a comic book portfolio. This would have been around 1993. I kind of set a deadline —a schedule for myself as to how long I wanted to spend getting stuff ready and then how long after that I wanted to actually try and get into comics. I decided it would probably take me about a year to get a decent portfolio together. Fortunately, I got my first work after about six months. I went to a small, local convention in Indianapolis and some guys that were doing some self-publishing liked my work and they asked me to do some stuff with them. I actually did a little bit of work with them that was never published. I met Bob Hickey at the Mid-Ohio Con that November. Working on a little bit of work for this independent company led to my getting the work on his StormQuest book.

**Sketch:** How important was going to those conventions to you getting started?

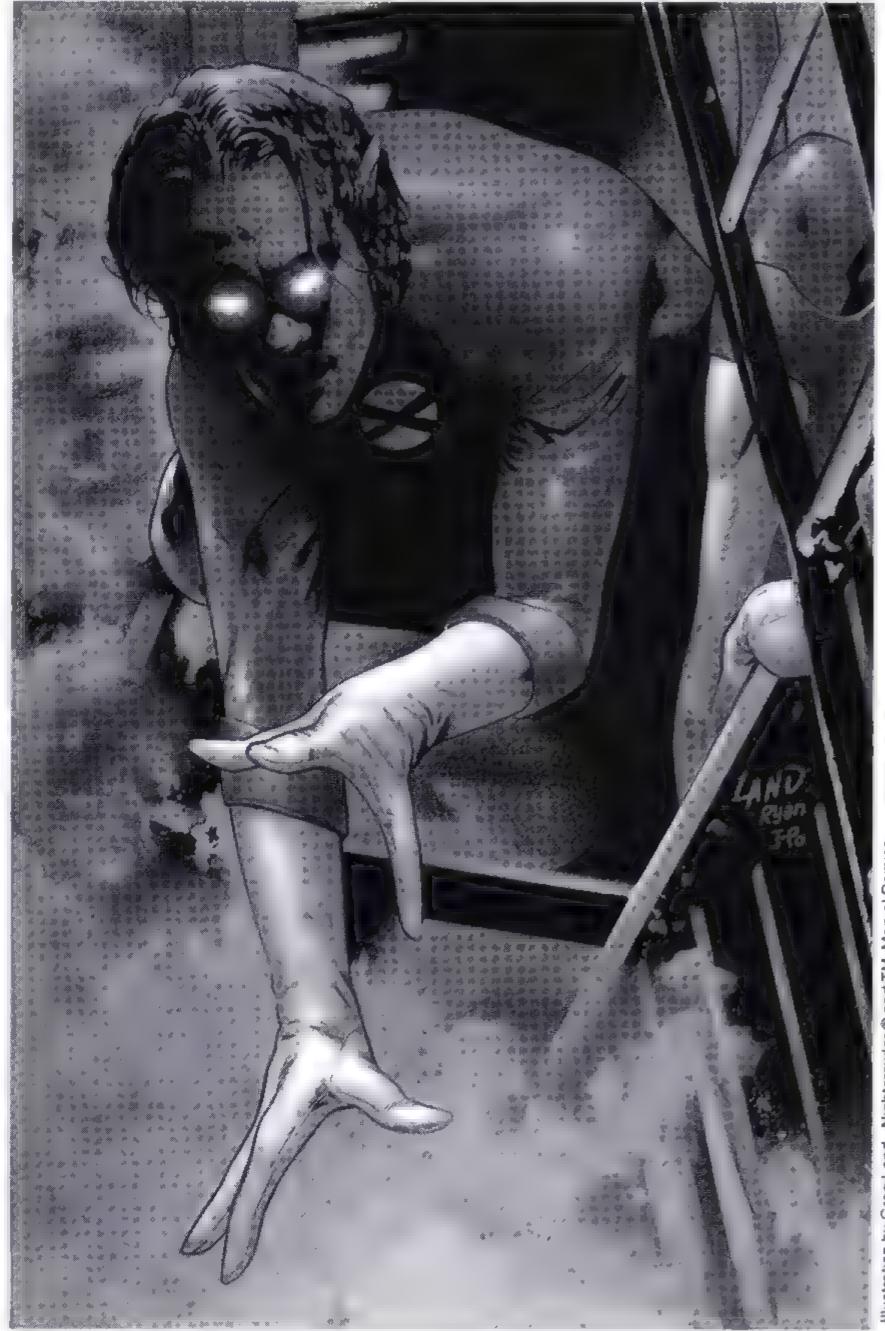
Greg: I had never been to a comic convention before. In my early college days I had done the old Marvel tryout book and sent that in and gotten the form letter back. I've still got those pages and they're absolutely horrible. So, straight out of college, I guess I wasn't ready to actually do comic book work. The time I spent doing screen print I learned a whole lot about basically all the things you need to know about artwork to actually become a professional artist.

Sketch: There are a lot of young artists who think they don't need the more formal training. They want to go directly into doing comics. But can that be a problem?

Greg: I tell you what, you know after you've done a few teddy bear designs that you really have no interest in doing – doing anything in comic books is a lot of fun. Obviously in comics you don't get to draw the big fun splash pages every page. You really have to be able to do the things like cars and buildings, you actually have to know how to research those

things and make them look like they actually are believable.

That's where that time sitting at the desk when you're not really getting paid for any of this stuff – that may determine whether you're actually going to become a professional or if you're just going to be someone who likes to tinker with it. If all an aspiring artist does is draw head shots of his



Hustration by Greg Land - Nightcrawfer @ and TM Marvel Comin



favorite character and never does the mundane things like still lifes and perspective drawings – the looking out the window and drawing the neighbor's house or whatever it may be, then you're probably not gonna ever get any better. You won't improve if you only stick with drawing the

**Sketch:** You drew the first issue of **Stormquest**. How did this help to lead to your next job?

superhero figures.

Greg: I was working on that stuff and I took that the following summer, which would have been 1994, I took that to Chicago and did my first major show. I did the whole deal of standing in lines all weekend. I had, I think, ten portfolio packages with me to hand to editors. It was on the last day, on Sunday, I had one package left and I was standing in a portfolio review line, I don't even know who the reviewer was or who he worked for, but he was doing a real long, drawn out critique of somebody's work and it became obvious that this line wasn't going to move because I was like five deep in the line or something like that...

Sketch: And time was running out?

Greg: Yeah, and the show was close to being over and I had that one last package that I was trying to impress somebody with. So I got out of that line and started milling around a

little bit and I saw an editor at DC whose name was Pat Garrahy and he was giving a guy a critique at one of their little satellite stands there at the DC booth. So I stood there and I was able to show Pat my work and he liked it really well and gave me a call that following Monday.

**Sketch:** This is the jackpot that so many people are trying to hit when they're standing in those lines.

Greg: Exactly. Well see, the thing is if I had stayed in that one line to wait for a chance to talk to that one individual, who knows, I may never have gotten my break to get into comics. But I was fortunate enough to hook up with an editor that liked what he saw of mine and saw the potential for growth there. I know it would be easy to get discouraged if a newcomer never actually makes that connection. I feel pretty fortunate that I was actually able to talk to Pat that particular day.

**Sketch:** Pat saw not only the quality of the work you had, but you say he saw the potential – your potential for growth.

Greg: Yeah. I talked to him about being in screen print and the fact that I was pretty much totally new at comic book storytelling and that type of illustration. He saw that I had a pretty good basis in my drawing ability and so he thought that I would be able to develop the storytelling skills as time went on.

Sketch: You mentioned single illustration versus storytelling skills. You're very in demand for cover work. You could probably make a career simply doing covers if you chose. What's the difference between doing

that single cover work illustration and doing storytelling? What are the pros and cons of each?

I like it a lot because Greg: you're able to just depict something at a particular moment. You're not stuck in having to create something where you've got to lead something up to it and then actually use that as a setup for something down the road in that story. You're able to just pick the character or characters - you know, we'll want iconic shots so you get a nice dramatic shot of this character doing whatever you want to have him doing. You don't actually have to have it fitting into the continuity of the story. So you can do something that you wouldn't necessarily see that character doing in the story. I like to do some montage type of things. I've always been a fan of movies and so I like when images are collaged together and you get little bits of what's going on in the story, but you're not tied down to actually keeping it in a continuity sense. You can have like some large images of the main figures and then maybe some smaller images put into that composition that actually tells a little bit about what you see may see inside the book.

Sketch: Your early Birds of Prey covers have a lot of those.

Greg: Those are pretty much all based on Brian Stelfreeze's rough sketches. He did the rough sketches and then I came in over top and did the finished pencils and then he came back and inked and colored them. I learned quite a bit on that project because of the way Brian would put things together and I found that quite a learning experience. I purposely tried to understand why he put certain things in certain places to create those montage images.

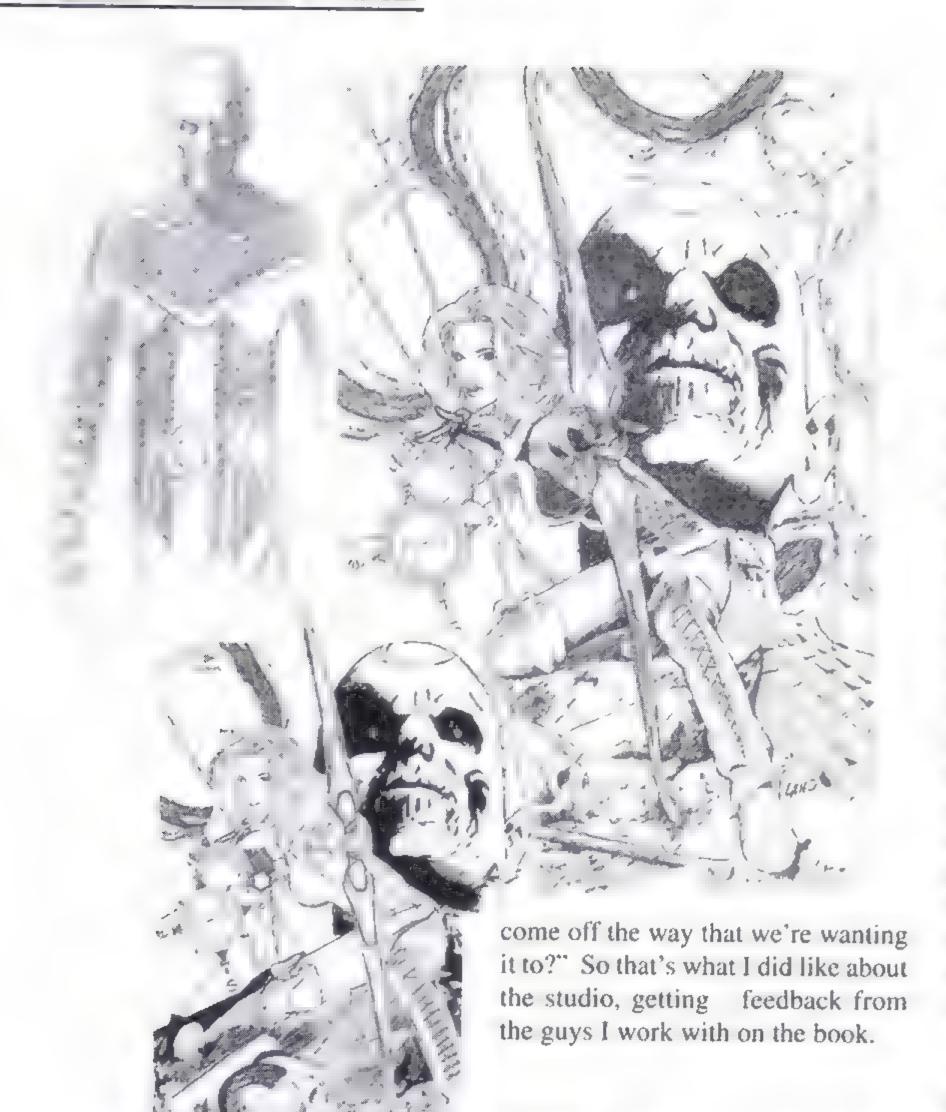
**Sketch:** Would you be comfortable doing single illustrations as a career or do you like the storytelling aspects also?

Greg: I could probably make a career out of doing single illustrations. I like doing that. One of my favorite books that I did while at Crossgen was Sojourn 19. It was where we told the story in one-page illustrations. Each page was just one full, single illustration as opposed to a bunch of panels. The prose that Ron Marz wrote at the bottom or top of each page kind of made the story

based on that one image. I had a lot of fun with that. I wouldn't mind doing another project similar to that in the future. It's kind of weird because I like doing both and I've been kind of fortunate here. Moving on to Marvel I'm getting a chance to do a lot more covers, which is a lot fun for me because I was always a big fan of all the Gill Kane covers that he used to do back in the 70's. For me it's like a chance to get to do something like that. And now I'm back into doing interiors – getting back into the actual storytelling.



LANE



Sketch: While at Crossgen, with the studio system there, you worked very closely with a lot of other artists. You mentioned learning things by working with Brian Stelfreeze. What were the pros and cons of studio work for you?

Greg: The pro, for me, was to be able to work directly with my inker and colorist, because we can actually talk about things. Say I'd ask Justin—I'd say, "Okay, you know we're going to have this fire effect behind this character—what would be the best thing for me to put down on the page for you? Do you have a specific way you think I should draw this or do you have an effect in the computer that you use that would make this

Sketch: You can do that by phone but it's not the same as having that personal contact, is it?

Greg: Right. I tended not to do that a whole lot prior to coming to Crossgen. I pretty much would FedEx the things in and occasionally I would talk to the inker and hardly ever to the colorist. But now down here, I'm still working with Matt Ryan and Justin Ponsor - that's the inker and colorist that I was working with there at Crossgen. I'm still working with those guys, so I liked that we developed that working relationship. I think both of those guys are extremely talented and do an incredible job. It's only been to my benefit to have this working relationship with them because they kind of understand what I'm going for on the page and we don't have to discuss it all the time. They kind of understand what's going on already.

**Sketch:** Are you still working at a studio together?

We're all still down here in Greg: the Tampa area but each of us has our own studio in their own home. Working in a studio is okay, but I actually prefer to work out of my own home. I like the relaxed atmosphere here. If I wake up early in the morning and I'm ready to start drawing, I can go in there in my pajamas and just start drawing. Don't have to worry about brushing my teeth or combing my hair. Although, you know, that is very important – I do do it at some point of the day. My daughter - I can be here when she gets home from school if my wife is working so we don't have to make other arrangements - that makes it more hands on in the raising of our daughter that way.

**Sketch:** You mentioned not talking to colorists very much before. Do you think colorists are becoming a more important part of the package?

Greg: I think it's an important thing. Nowadays a lot of colorists are using computers because they're getting so many effects and so many unique qualities to the page that wasn't there before. They can do added textures and nice rendering effects that really give the piece a lot of volume that may not have been there back in the four-color press days. So it's kind of nice to be able to have a dialogue with the colorist, especially when you're going for say a smoky effect, and make this one scene look kind of creepy. We can chat that out and kind of work at it from there.

0 00-3

**Sketch:** So more and more colorists are to comics what the special effects team is to a movie?

Greg: I suppose you could kind of think of it in terms like that – yeah. I look at some of the coloring in different books today and some of it is just absolutely fantastic. You know guys are really becoming skilled with their color knowledge and their computer knowledge and how to make these effects work. So some of it is quite impressive, yeah.

**Sketch:** Now, for your own work, how much do you use photo reference?

I use quite a bit. As my Greg: work has progressed over time, I've found that I'm constantly gravitating to more of a realistic look to my work and so that naturally makes me search out reference to be able to get the result that I want. I'll do clip files where, if I see something in the newspaper that I like, I'll clip it out and save it for the building or car, a person and expression - something about the folds of their clothes, you know, some sort of dramatic lighting effect that I like. Anything that I see that I think that visually I could be able to reinterpret onto a comic book page to better tell the story that I'm trying to tell, I'll store that away somewhere to be able to have that at a later date.

Sketch: Many of classic illustrators of the 30s and 40s had extensive clip file references like you're talking about, but I think a lot of artists got away from that.

Greg: I guess that kind of goes back to my training in art. We always worked from still life's, which is basically you're drawing what you see. A lot of the artists that I grew up liking

were guys like Andrew Wyeth and Norman Rockwell. Guys like that had a lot of physical references that they worked from. I know Rockwell use to set up his own shots and everything. I like to set up shots as well whenever I have the opportunity and either take a Polaroid or a digital photo of it. I incorporate that into my work.



bluelinepro com Sketch Magazine 15

Sketch: I got the opportunity to visit you at the studios at Crossgen. You were very gracious to my wife and daughters and we got to see you actually working. You went so far as to take photo reference, clip art, etc., and assemble your page first.

Yeah, I'll do a - I guess what Greg: you would call a collage of these different reference images. I'll make photocopies. I'll enlarge, reduce and I'll actually move them around on my practice page until I get a composition that I'm happy with. You know, change size relationships, move things around until I get a good feel for the composition. Then that's when I put the clean board over top and I start doing the drawing that way. And then I can make whatever tweaks, changes that I want to do in the drawing stage at that point.

So in that layout process -Sketch: is that where most pencillers would be doing thumbnails?

I do initial thumbnails af-Greg: ter I read the script so I know my basic positioning and know what angles I want to go from and then that's when, looking through my reference files, I'll look for poses or situations that match that initial pencil sketch.

I've seen artists that are Sketch: obviously using photo reference but there's - they're not doing it well. Some of their characters are very realistic and others, you know, very cartoonish. They don't have that mesh. I've seen your photocopy layout and been able to compare it to your finished page. You use it as a reference, but you're not really copying it slavishly. You're using it as a guide, but you make a lot of changes, making it more natural and fluid. You can tell that there's a reference, but

you're still using the spontaneity of comics drawing, which is hard to do.

I'm using it as a tool. It's a Greg: technique that I've developed and it's a technique that a lot of artists use. A lot of artists outside of comics put their stuff together this way. I've taken the knowledge that I've gotten from my own experience in screen print and what I've seen in advertising and other aspects of art. I've used these influences that are outside of comics and I've brought them into my work in comics.

Your first project for Mar-Sketch: vel is the much anticipated Dark Phoenix mini-series. Who are you working with on that?

Greg Pak is the writer on Greg: this one. I wasn't familiar with him. He's been doing new stuff with Marvel and I guess not a lot of people have heard of him. But so far, I've almost finished up the first issue and I like what he's doing. He's got a pretty nice pace to the story and has some nice visuals written in there that allow me to do something very cool artistically on the page.

Sketch: I've heard he's quite talented, but the fans haven't had a chance to see much of his work yet. He's gotten quite lucky to get you to do one of his early projects.

Greg: Hopefully this project will be good for both of us. It's my first real story for Marvel and so it would be a nice coming out party for both of us, I guess.

**Sketch:** What are some your favorite characters that you grew up with? Some of the characters that you would like to draw sometime?

Greg: Like, I guess, my collection - I've got a lot of the old Avengers, Fantastic Four, Spider-Man and X-Men stuff. Falling into any of those categories is going to be just fine with me. I was one of the Marvel zombies back in the 70's, so I've got a lot of different stuff. I used to like to get books that Gill Kane did the covers on because I liked his work so much. I used to like the John Buscema Avengers and Fantastic Four stuff. So really, I was almost like a kid in a candy store, getting to do all this stuff, getting a chance to do some of the characters that I grew up really enjoying.

Greg may have grown up cutting up and re-arranging comics, but the thought of anyone cutting up any of Greg's books makes this writer shiver in horror.





# Mitch Byrd's Drawing Table

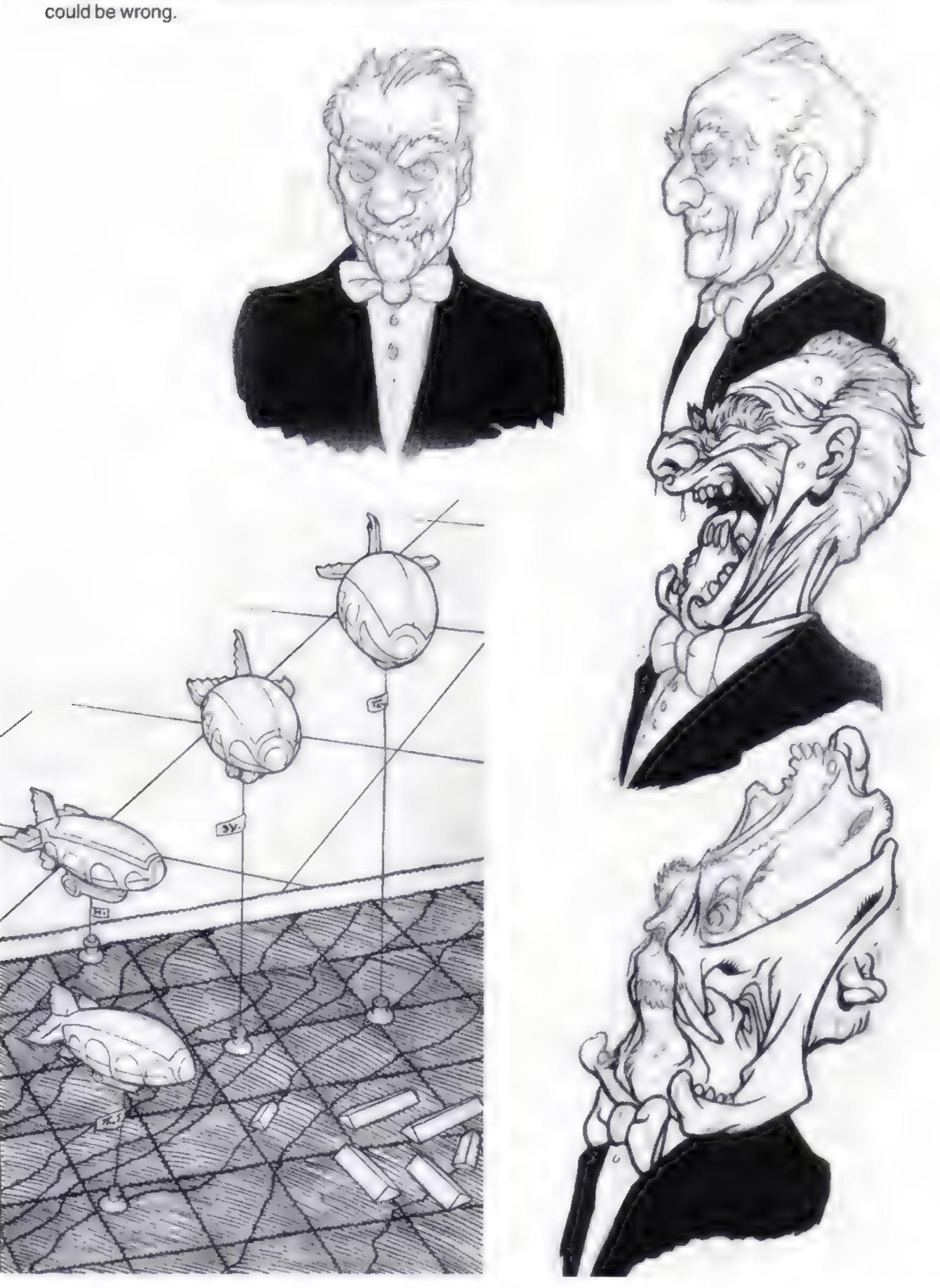
### BRAINSTORMING

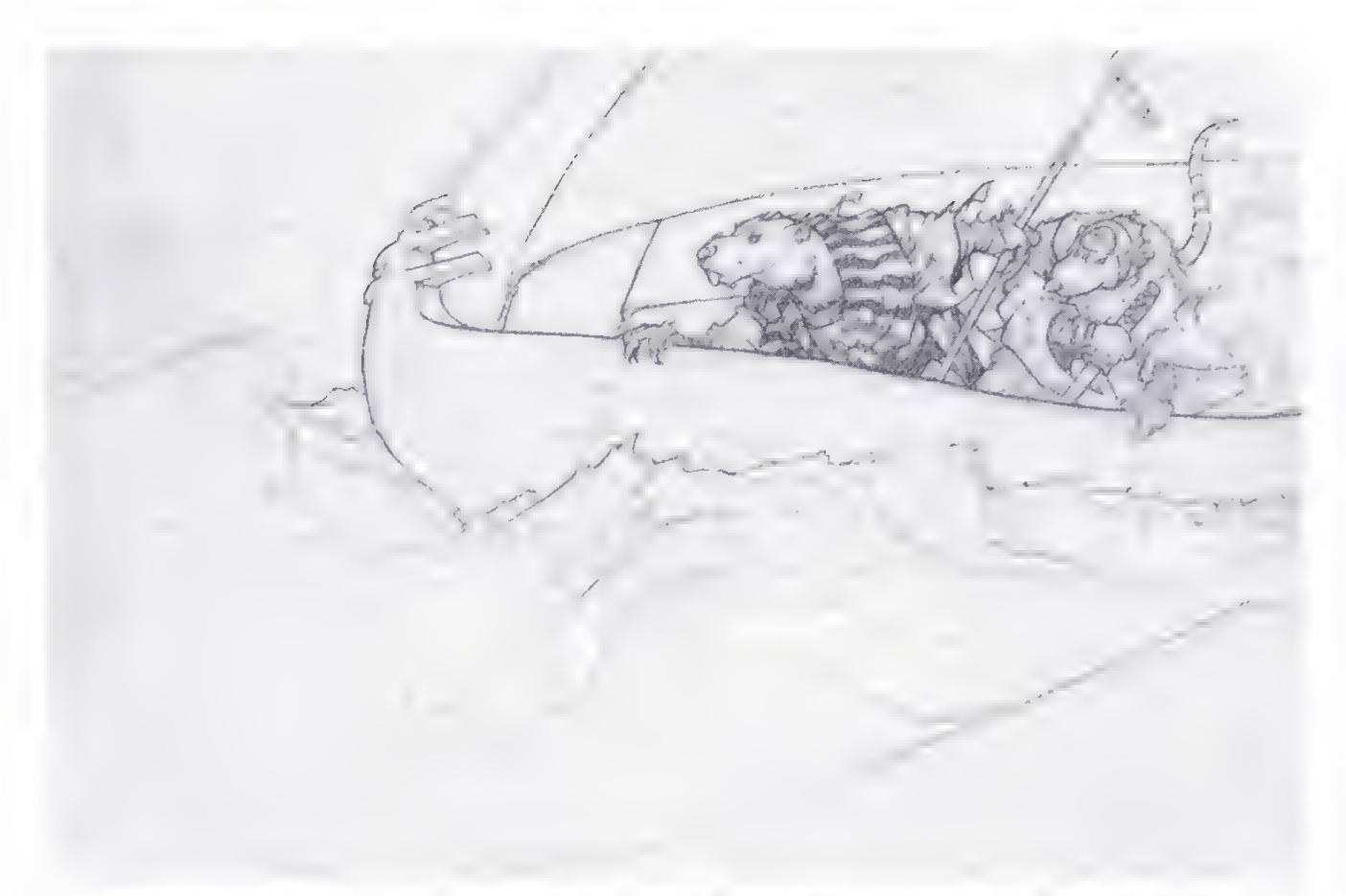
Sometimes you find yourself drawing a blank on what to draw. And I know you've been there spinning your wheels and pulling your hair.

Kinda like writer's block. And if you listen to writers, they always say write something to get past the block and get out of it. Write anything.

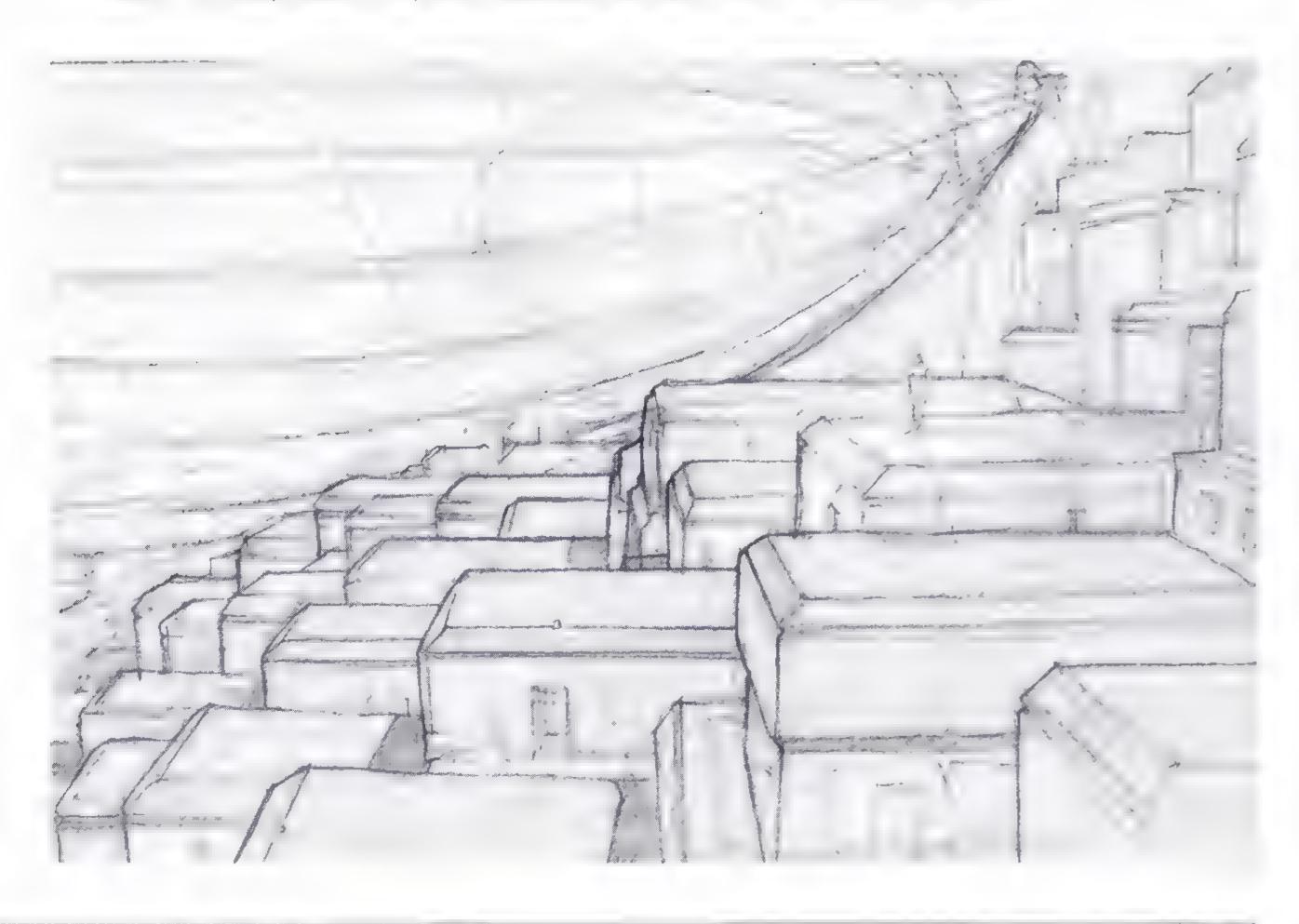
The same way with drawing. If you find yourself stumped on a particular idea, then just try drawing something else to get in the swing.

Just draw something. Anything. It doesn't have to make sense to anyone but you...and if you think about it, maybe not even to you. Like this picture...it's some kind of blimp game, I guess. I could be wrong.





And if you just start drawing, you might end up with a good sketch that you like. Like this drawing, "Rats On a Boat," where...uh, well...there are rats on a boat – who doesn't like that?





And when you just sit around sketching, you're not obligated to do anything with them – they don't have to meet any editor's approval, or tell a writer's particular story, or follow a certain style or achieve a specific purpose. Look at this guy. He's an important general on his own planet – but what could I use him for?

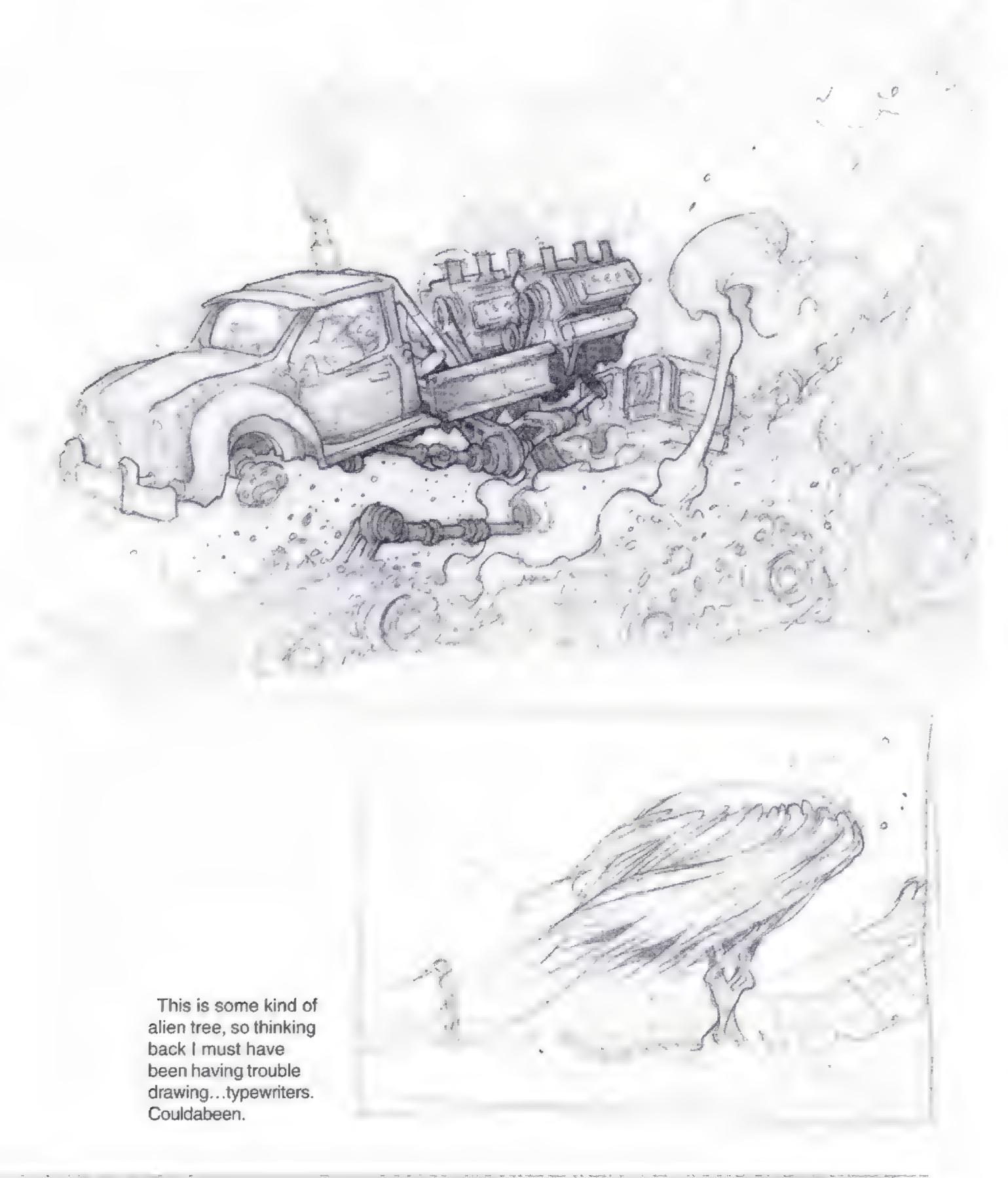
You don't have to flesh out everything you slap on a piece of paper, but just drawing it out real quick helps you record the idea with a visual image you had in mind when you doodled it on the spot



If you can't think of a car to draw, then draw a person. If you can't think of a man to draw, then draw a woman...and if you can't think of a woman to draw, then draw two. Just don't sit there wrestling with what to draw – let the drawings wrestle.



Maybe for a change your sketch will lead you to a story, rather than a drawing leading you to a drawing. This thing has "hillbilly" written all over it.



bluelinepro com 23

And once you get back into the groove of drawing - after sketching or doodling the "whatevers" - you can go back to finishing what you were supposed to, which is what I did with this drawing. I'm stopping work on this one so I can go finish my real assignment



It's just a little brainstorming doodle.

MB

# Blina Lina Pao

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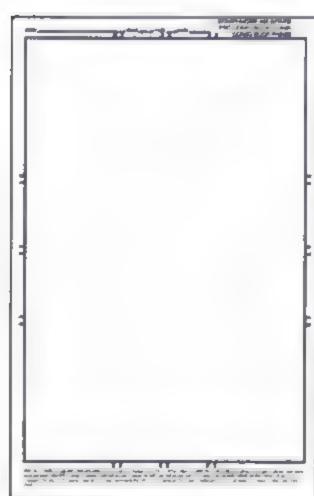
#### COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS and CUSTOM PAPERS



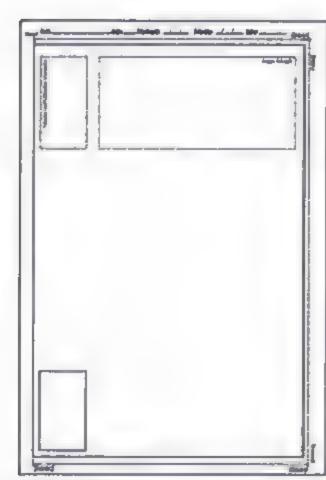
Full Trim Format Art Boards

PLY

Phy is the thickness of the paper. A 2 ply paper has two pieces of paper pressed together and a 3 ply has 3 pieces of paper pressed logether which is thicker than 2 ply



Traditional Format Art Boards



Cover Sheets

#### PREMIERE300(STRATHMORE)

300 Series Full Trim Format

PRO 300 Series Comic Book Boards is an economical heavyweight paper. Like the rest of the Blue Line products the Pro 300 Series is preprinted with a non-photo blue border that allows the artist to draw comics the actual size that professionals do.

 PRO 300 Series (SMOOTH) surface is a 100lb 100% acid free board. This Strathmore board is ideal for pen ink work and is also suited for pencil and marker.

-ITEM# BL1041 SRP \$17.00

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area/bagged

PRO 300 Series (REGULAR) toothy surface is a 100th 100% acid free board. This
Strathmore board works well with pencils
charcoal and watercolor.

-ITEM# 8L1042 SRP \$17.00

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area bagged

#### PREMIERE400(STRATHMORE)

400 Series Full Trim Format

400 Series already has a very serious history Comic Book Boards 400 series is printed on the finest art paper available. Strathmore Like the rest of the Biue Line products the 400 Series is preprinted with a non-photo blue border that allows the artist to draw comics the actual size that professionals draw.

\$400 Series (SMOOTH) surface is a 100% acid free bristol. This Strathmore board is ideal for detailed ink work and is also suited for pencil and marker.

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area/ bagged

- ITEM# BL 1043 SMOOTH 2-PLY SRP \$19.00

- ITEM# BL1045 SMOOTH 3-PLY SRP \$28.00

 S400 Series (REGULAR) toothy surface is a 100% acid free bristol. This Strathmore board works well with pencils, inks, charcoal and pastel.

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area/ bagged.

- ITEM# BL1044 REGUALR 2-PLY SRP \$19.00

-ITEM# BL1046 REGULAR 3-PLY

SRP \$28.00

#### PREMIERE500(STRATHMORE)

500 Series Full Trim Format

500 series comic book boards is the top of the line for art paper

Strathmore 500 is 100% cotton fiber. Acid free

and unsurpassed for fine pen and pencil work

• 500 Series (SMOOTH) surface is a 100%
cotton fiber acid free board. This Strathmore
board is ideal for pen ink work and is also suited
for pencil and marker.

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area/ bagged

-ITEM# BL1047 SMOOTH 2-PLY SRP\$41.00

 TEM# BL1049 SMOOTH 3-PLY SRP \$57.75
 500 Series (REGULAR) toothy surface is a 100% cotton fiber acid free board. This Strathmore board works well with pencils, charcoal and watercolor.

12 pages per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area/ bagged.

- ITEM# BL1048 REGULAR 2-PLY SRP \$41.00

• ITEM# BL1050 REGULAR 3-PLY SRP \$57.75

#### PRO COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS

(Full Trim Format)

Blue Line has taken the quality paper that they have used in the "Pro" pages for years and printed a newly designed Full Trim border format in non-photo blue ink.

This offering the artist the quality of Propages with an advanced page border

In addition, each pack also includes one page of Blue Line Comic Book Cover Sheets, specritically laid out with a larger image area for standard comic book cover designs.

Use pencil ink (brush recommened), markers wash acrylics

-ПЕМ# BL1038 SRP \$15.95

24 pages per pack

11" x 17" 3- ply brite art boards with a 15 3/4" x 10 3/8" image border with a 9" x 13 3/4" safe area dotted border area and 1 Cover Sheet with 10 3/4" x 16" non-photo border printed/bagged

#### PRO COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS

(Traditional Format)

Pro Comic Book Boards brite white surface offers a smooth surface to pencils and inking with a brush literally glides across the surface (quili pen not recommended). Pro has offered thousands of artist the opportunity to begin their careers on a pre-printed boards like the professional publisher uses.

Traditional Format has the original 10" x 15" image border with panel markers for a traditional page layout

Page size is 11" x 17" with a non-photo blue image area of 10" x 15". In addition, each pack also includes one page of Blue Line Comic Book. Cover Sheets, specifically laid out with a larger image area for standard comic book cover designs.

Use pencil ink (brush recommened), markers wash acrylics

-ITEM# BL 1001 SRP\$15.95

24 pages per pack

11" x 17" 3- ply brite art boards with a 10" x 15" non-photo image printed and 1 Cover Sheet with 10 3/4" x 16" non-photo image printed/harmed

#### **COMIC BOOK BOARDS**

(Traditional Format)

Corrac Book Boards are specifically laid out with an image area for standard comic book designs. These boards like the other comic book boards offer an area to write the name of the book the artist is drawing, issue number, page number and date. This helps to keep track of your boards and where they belong. Double page spreads are a snap for an artist. Just take two comic book boards and then butt the sides together, apply tape down the back of those boards and then the artist is ready to illustrate a double-page drawing. Fast and easy with no

Use pencil link (brush) marker wash

-ITEM# BL1003 SRP \$12.95

24 pages of Brite Art Index per pack

11" x 17" pages with a 10" x 15" non-photo

#### COMIC BOOK COVER SHEETS

These Comic Book Cover Sheets, show a border for your drawing with pre-marked bleeds for trimming with an area for the possible piacement for the book is logo and company intormation clearly marked. This helps to keep all of the important elements of the covers from being covered up when the book logo and company info are placed later. They are 12 pages of 2-ply premium Brite art index board that come bagged and feature non-photo blue ink.

- ITEM# 8L1007 SRP \$9.95

12 pages per pack

mage/bagged

11" x 17" art pages printed with a 10 3/4" x 16" non-photo blue border printed-bagged

### OVER-SIZED COMICBOOK ART BOARDS

(Traditional Format Borders)

Premiere 300 regular (Strathmore) Over Sized Comic Book Art Boards 12 per pack textured-surface pages (14 x 22) with Traditional Border Premiere 300 Strathmore Series regular is a 100lbs paper preprinted with a non-photo blue border that is the trademark of all Blue Line Pro boards. This allows the artist to draw comics the actual size that professionals do Professionals draw their illustrations larger then they appear in the finished product. This helps minimize mistakes. The main advantage of Strathmore is its 100% acid free feature. This prevents the signs of aging such as yellowing. Premiere 300 Senes Comic Book Boards serves as the premiere economic heavyweight paper for the Strathmore series. The regular textured surface offers the artist a chance for textured etchings and is ideal for pencils and charcoal as well as watercolor

-ITEM#BL1057 SRP \$25.95

12 pages per pack

14" x 22" with a 12" x 19" non-photo blue border

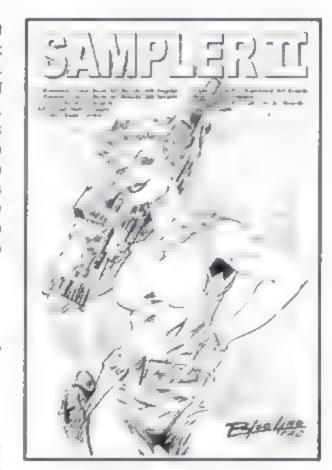
Premiere 300 smooth (Strathmore) Over Sized Comic Book Art Boards 12 per pack smooth surface pages (14 x 22) with Traditional Border Premiere 300 Strathmore Series Smooth is a 100lbs. paper preprinted with a non-photo blue border that is the trademark of all Biue Line Pro boards. This allows the artist to draw comics the actual size that professionals do Professionals draw their illustrations larger then they appear in the finished product This helps minimize mistakes. The main advantage of Strathmore is its 100% acid free feature. This prevents the signs of aging. such as yellowing. Premiere 300 Senes. Comic Book Boards serves as the premiere economic heavyweight paper for the Strathmore series

-TEM#BL1058 SRP \$25.95

12 pages per pack

14" x 22" with a 12" x 19" non-photo blue

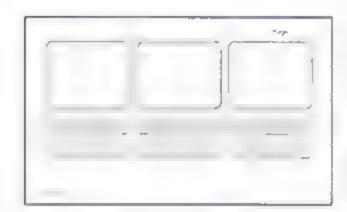
border



#### **BLUE LINE SAMPLER II**

If you haven't tried Blue Line products here's your chance. The Blue Line Sampler includes 4-Comic Book Pages. 4-Concept Sketch Pages. 3-Comic Book Cover Sheets. 3- Layout Pages, 3-Pro Comic Book Pages. 3-Storyboard Templates. 3-Full Bleed Pro C.B. Pages. 1- Strathmore 300 smooth. 1- Strathmore 300 regular. Ail in non-photo blue of course. That's 25 pages of five different Blue Line products. Check out all Blue Line and Blue Line Pro products in one fell swoop.

- ITEM# BL1040 SRP \$13.95
25 pages of 8 different Blue Line products



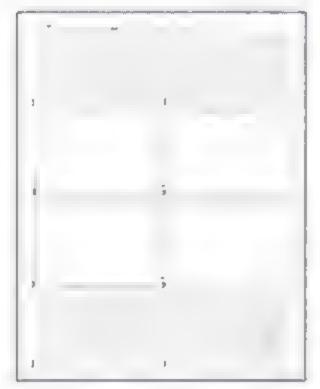
#### STORYBOARD TEMPLATES

Animators and Storyboard artist! Blue Line Storyboard Templates offers animators and writers a quick and easy way to show movement and sequences of a story or animation

Storyboard Templates have three large panels with lines below each for detailed art and storytelling.

-ITEM# BL1018 SRP \$13.95

100 sheets of 60 lb 8 1/2 x 14 pages with 3 panels padded with colored cover



#### LAYOUT PAGES

Comic Book Layout Pages uses premium bond paper and printed in non-photo blue, of course, features markings to layout four thumbnails per sheet to detail your comic book page rdeas and room for notations and other information

Used for story boarding your comic book story A geat tool for artists or writers to work out details for the story along with layouts of peges

-ITEM# BL1005 SRP \$8.95

30.8 1/2" x 1.1" pages printed in non-photo-blue/ bagged



#### POCKET SKETCH PAD

50 pages of heavy illustration board to carry around in your pocket to have ready when your hit with a revolutionary vision. Great for quick sketches and designs. Featuring Blue Line's quarty illustration paper Great for pencilling linking and washes 50 pages / 5" x 9 1/2" / padded / two-color cover

- Item # BL1051

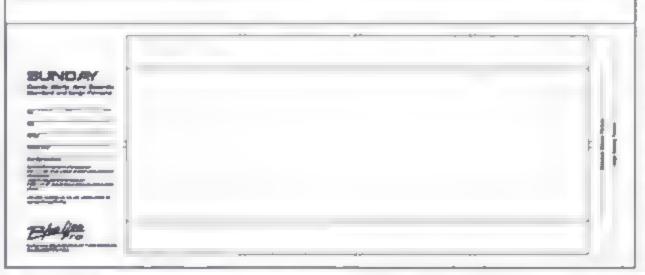
SRP \$5.95

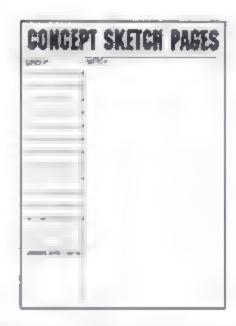


#### COMIC STRIP ART BOARDS

Bige Line Pro COMIC STRIP ART BOARDS offer comic strip illustrators an easy and time saving way to create professional looking comic strips. Printed on Blue Line Prois Premiere. (Strathmore) 300 series smooth with a non-photo blue border. Daily comic strip borders. measure 4 1.16" x 13". This offers the illustrator the ability to reduce the original at a 44%. reduction to the standard daily strip size. Sunday comic strip borders have two sizes, the first is a large format of 5 3/8" x 11 1/2" and the second format of 3 3/4" x 11 1/2". The Sunday strips are drawn at the size they are published and usual have two rows of panels. Each stop offers basic border formats for four and three panels and Sundays allow for additional rows

BLP COMIC STRIP ART BOARDS 12 Daily Comic Strips and 2 Sunday Comic Strips - ITEM # BL 1052 SRP #12 95





#### **CONCEPT SKETCH PAGES**

Record and organize your creative ideas on a convenient, quality art board. Concept Sketch Pages are made from premium index board featuring non-photo blue ink so that the artistican ink his illustrations on a non-reprosurface. Concept Sketch Pages offer an image. area for an illustrator to draw a character scene or anything. And, it also gives room for written information to be included with the artwork This is handy when a character is designed for a comic book and you want to include his biopowers etc. or a Role Playing character you're playing These pages can easily be hole punched and inserted into a binder. A character template is even included for quick and easy character creations!

-ITEM# BL1004 SRP \$8.95

25 art pages printed in non-photo blue/bagged.

### MANGA COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS

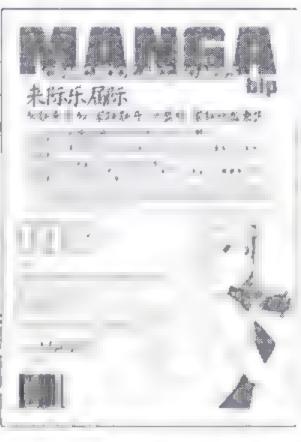


#### MANGA COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS 1 PLY for Dojinshi (Be-

ginner) - 85 size book. The paper size is based on JIS standard B5 SIZE -RULER(182 x 257 - 150 x 220mm) PA-PER SIZE - A4 PRINTING SIZE 182 x 257mm(8 1/4" x 11 3/4") DRAWING FRAME 150 x 220mm (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") This is board is convenient for designing your frames. Besides the rules if has center marks and trim marks. The paper is smooth for illustrating with pen 20 sheets -Item #MA001 SRP \$6.95

#### MANGA COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS 1 PLY (Professional) -

B4 size book. The paper size is based on JIS standard B4 SIZE - RULER PAPER SIZE - 84 / (220 x 310mm - 180 x 270mm) PRINTING SIZE 220 x 310mm(10" x 14 1/4") DRAWING FRAME 180 x 270mm (9 1/2" x 13") This board is convenient for designing your frames. Besides the rules, it has center. marks and trim marks. The paper is smooth for illustrating with pen 20 sheets. -Item #MA005 SRP \$8 95



#### MANGA COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS 108 lb. For Dojinshi (Be-

ginner) - 85 size book. The paper size is based on JIS standard B5 SIZE / RULER(182 x 257 - 150 x 220mm) PA-PER SIZE - A4 PRINTING SIZE 182 x 257mm(8 1/4" x 11 3/4") DRAWING FRAME 150 x 220mm (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") This is board is convenient for designing. your frames. Besides the rules, it has center marks and trim marks. The paper is smooth for illustrating with pen 20 sheets -Item #MA002 SRP \$7.95

#### MANGA COMIC BOOK ART BOARDS 108 lb. (Professional)

B4 size book. The paper size is based on JIS standard 64 SIZE / RULER PAPER SIZE - B4 / (220 x 310mm 180 x 270mm) PRINTING SIZE 220 x 310mm(10" x 14 1/ 41) DRAWING FRAME 180 x 270mm (9) 1/2" x 13") This board is convenient for designing your frames. Besides the rules, it has center marks and tom marks. The paper is smooth for illustrating with pen-20 sheets

-Item #MA006

SRP \$9 95



#### MANGA COMIC MANUSCRIPT PAPER 1 ply (Beginner) A blank art

board for writers and layout artist to use in designing a comic book. No borders or rulers 1 ply DOJINSHI (Beginner) (182 x 257) PAPER SIZE - A4 PRINTING SIZE 182 x 257mm(8 1/4" x 11 3/4") 20 sheets

-Item #MA003

SRP \$5.95

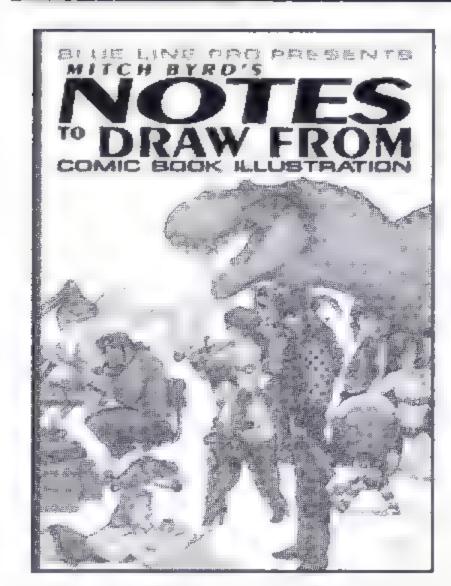
#### MANGA COMIC MANUSCRIPT PAPER 1 ply (Pro) A brank art board for writers and layout artist to use in de-

signing a comic book. No borders or rulers 1 pty PROFESSIONAL USE - B4 SIZE PAPER SIZE - B47 (220 x 310mm) PRINT-ING SIZE 220 x 310mm(10" x 14 1/4") 20 sheets

-Item #MA004

SRP \$7.95

### BLUE LINE PRO'S "HOW TO" BOOK SERIES



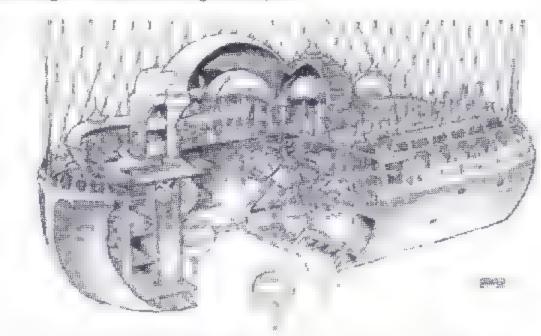
### NOTES TO DRAW FROM COMIC BOOK ILLUSTRATION

By Mitch Byrd

Mitch Byrd's incredible charming artwork comes to life with this ultimate handbook on illustrating comic concepts. NOTES TO DRAW FROM COMIC BOOK ILLUSTRATION inspired by Byrd's years of professional work and columns in Sketch Magazine, displays the processes and important ideas central to comics such as page layout/composition, character design, perspective, and much more All this is achieved with complete and precise narratives complimenting step by step visuals that combine to paint a full understanding of comic drawing concepts

104 pg. full color. SRP \$15 95

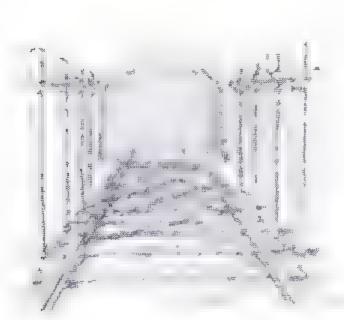
**ITEM# BL3010** 



### Basic PERSPECTIVE FOR COMICS

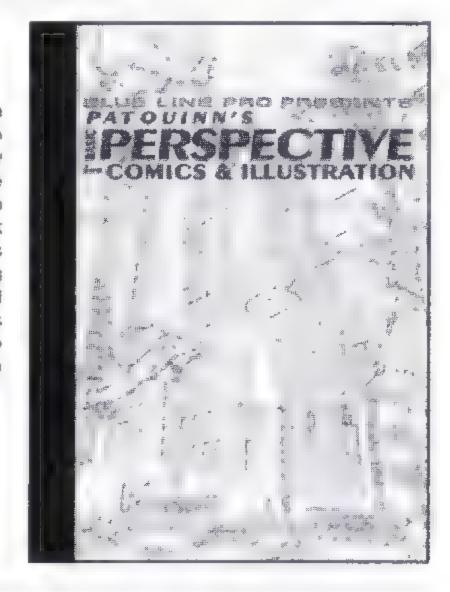
By Pat Quinn

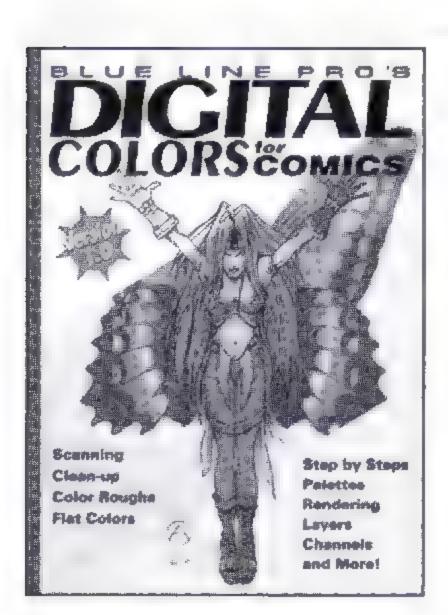
The artistic technician Pat Quinn dissects every inch of perspective in comics in the ultimate handbook on creating space on a flat surface. Basic Perspective For Comics. With this handbook, the mystery behind the techniques and principles of perceptive will be painstaking revealed and fully



broken down with step by step visuals. Simple concepts such as vanishing points and horizon lines will be demonstrated as the basic framework for placing anything in perspective as well as creating time honored dynamic storytelling effects. All this is achieved with complete and precise narratives complemented with hundreds of step by step illustrations that combine to construct a full understanding of perspective in comics.

ITEM# 8L3020 48 pg full color / SRP \$12 95





#### DIGITAL COLORS FOR COMICS

By Aaron Hubrich

Blue Line Pro presents the first in a series of Blue Line Pro "how to" manual books with everything you would ever need to know about digital coloring, and then some. With 48 square-bound full color pages, digital colorist and *Sketch* columnist Aaron Hubrich walks us though the process of digitally coloring from start to finish, providing extensive commentaries and broken down step by steps in addition. Aaron shows that there is more then one way to color a cat by demonstrating alternative pathways for the same effects.

Full Color 8x10 48pg

SRP \$9 95

ITEM# BL3001

### DIGITAL COLORS FOR COMICS plus CD.

This special edition includes several **extra** features on one easy to use CD includes ready-to-color high resolution line art that corresponds with the lessons taught in the book, exclusive links to the internet for addition information and updates, and much, much more. CD comes sealed on inside back cover. Compatible with PC and Mac.

Full Color 8x10 48pg with CD.

SRP \$15 95

ITEM# BL3001CD

## HOW TO... BREAK-IN TO THE COMIC BOOK BUSINESS



There's a lot more to getting started in the comics business than writing, drawing and coloring! Learn the dos (and many don'ts) of becoming a professional comic book creator. From the first con visit to self-publishing to guiding the adventures of your favorite character, this book will show you the inside info you need in order to stand out from the crowd and realize your dreams.

 HOW TO BREAK-IN TO THE COMIC BOOK BUSINESS 6 ISSUES.

#1 -ITEM# BL3031 \$5 95

#2 -ITEM# BL3032 \$5 95

#3 -ITEM# BL3033 \$5 95

#4 -ITEM# BL3034 \$5 95

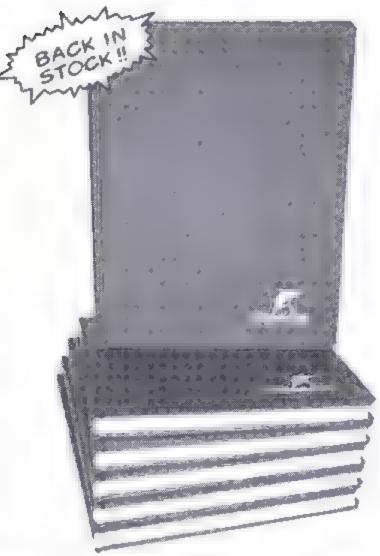
#5 -ITEM# BL3035 \$5 95 #6 -ITEM# BL3036 \$5 95

### PENCILER AND INKER STARTING SET



With everything you need to get starting pencilling and inking, this is a great set to get anyone interested in illustrating comics well on their way With the combination of the dependable Blue Line Pro pro art boards and quality art supplies and tools, this set is a sure beat to help your dream become reality Set contains 24 sheets of pro comic book pages, 1 8-piece multipurpose compass set (which includes a standard compass, a pencil compass, pencil, eraser, 6" ruler, 45/90 triangle, 60/30 triangle, and a protractor), 1 4-piece geometry set (which includes 5" protractor, 1 12" ruler, 1 large 30/60 triangle, and 1 large 45/90 triangle), 1 large kneaded eraser, 3 non-photo blue pencils, 1 brush (size #1), a 1oz bottle of Higgens black ink, and 1 crow quill #102 inking pen. Sealed in 11x17 Travel

ITEM# BL1055 SRP \$38.95



#### SKETCH BOOK SERIES

Blue Line offers two different sizes of Sketch Books A Regular 81/2" x 11" size and the Traditional 11" x 17" size both are filled with 200 pages of 70 lb. art paper. Both have hard covers with library quality stitch binding for durability and makes it easier to draw without an art table.

#### SKETCH BOOK REGULAR (8 1/2" x 11")

This standard sized hard covered book offers anyone with the ability to pick up a pencil the opportunity to draw. An artist could create their own library of sketches. Great for when you don't want to carry a sketch board around or your just sitting around with your friends. Also a good way to collect artist signatures and sketches at conventions!

- Item #BL1010 / 200 pg Hard cover book. SRP
 \$24.95

#### SKETCH BOOK TRADITIONAL (11" x 17")

This Sketch Book offers the artist the ability to draw the size they're going to draw their original comic book pages

- Item #BL1011 / 200 pg Hard cover book SRP \$27.95

#### **CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BOOK!**



Blue Line has developed a simple and inexpensive step by step to create your very first comic book, that's fun, easy and comprehensive A box set of Blue Line products that aid a person in making their own comic<sup>1</sup> It includes 1 Character Template, 6 Concept Sketch Pages, 6 Comic Book Layout Pages, 24 Comic Book Pages, 1 Comic Book Cover Sheet and a 24 page instructional comic book

#### -ITEM# BL1002 SRP \$21.95

Box Set 37 art pages / 24 page b&w instructional comic book / full color die

#### DR. MARTIN WATERCOLORS

Radiant Concentrated Watercolors
 Dr. Martin s

Extremely concentrated watercolors. Giving great brilliance and radiant tones in illustrations. They may be diluted with water and blend freely. Radiant colors are less transparent than synchromatic colors.

All Sets and Single Colors Available on-line at www.bluelinepro.com or call 859-282-0098.



## PRISMACOLOR MARKERS AND COLORED PENCILS All Sets and Single Colors

Available on-line at www.bluelinepro.com or call 859-282-0096.







#### INDIA INK

Higgens Black India Ink

A non-clogging ink for lettering pens. and brushes. Opaque semi-gloss black finish and waterproof

-AR-4415 Black Ink (Higgins) 1oz. \$3.00

- AR-EF44011 Black Magic Ink (Higgins) 10z, \$3 50

Higgins Waterproof Black Magic Ink is non-corrosive, free-flowing, and non-clogging. Great for use on tracing vallum and other film surfaces.





 Pelikan Drawing Ink One of the finest drawing ink avail-

able, Pelikan ink is great with technical pens, graphic and fine art papers or tracing cloth.

- AR-PE211862 Black India Ink (Pelikan) toz. \$4.75

- AR-PE211169 Black India Ink (Pelikan) 80z \$18.75

KOH-I-NOOR RAPIDOGRAPH

Rapidograph Ink, Black, opaque ink for drafting film, paper, and tracing cloth. For use with Koh-I-Noor Rapidograph Pens.

- AR-3084-FI Koh-I-Noor Ink



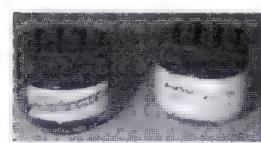
 FW WHITE OUT FW. Acrylic Artist Waterproof White Ink Tox. Great for use with technical pans, brushes, and dip

- AR-FW-011 FW White Acrylic Artist Ink \$500

 FW BLACK ACRYLIC INK FW. Acrylic Artist Waterproof Black Ink 1 oz.

Great for use with technical pens, brushes, and dip pens.

- AR-863018 FW Black Acrylic Artist Ink \$500



SPEEDBALL ACRYLIC INKS \*SPEEDBALL BLACK INK

Archival quality pigmented acrylic mks made from the finest pigments Waterproof permanent and nontoxic 12 mt jars

-AR-938718 Black \$2.25 \*SPEEDBALL WHITE INK

Archival quality pigmented acrylic inks made from the finest pigments. Waterproof, permanent and nontoxic 12 mt jars

-AR-937045 White \$2 25



BRUSHES WINSOR/NEWTON SERIES 7 Wirsor/Newton Series 7

Made with Kolinaky sable with tradi-Uonai black handle. Great brush. AR-5007001 Winsor/Newton

Series7 Streat - AR-5007002 Winsor/Newton Series 7 Size#2 \$22.95 - AR-5007003 Winsor/Newton Series7 S/2e#3 \$36.75

Round Brushes Made with natural Sable with excellent edges and points for precise strokes.

- AR-NB-38-0 Round Brush Size #0

AR-MB-38-1 Round Brush \$3.25 Size #1 - AR-NB-38-2 Round Brush

\$3.95 Size #2 - AR-058009018 Round Brush Size#3 \$3.95



Draws circles accurately upt o 9 " dia Holds markers felt pens cutting knife brush, Multiliners, pencil crayon etc. AR-CC5455A \$19.95



\$3.00

Permits drawing circles up to 24" diameter and a second bar larger circles. AR-CCB1 \$11.75



#### **ELECTRIC ERASER and REFILLS**



#### KOH-I-NOOR ELECTRIC ERASER

Designed to erase both lead and ink from paper and him. Features a heavy-duty maintenance free 115v motor, protected by a highimpact white LEXAN case. Maximum efficiency with either the No 287 white varyl strip eraser for paper or the specially formulated no. 285 imbibed yellow strip. eraser for film. Includes a No. 287 strip eraser

-AR-2800E Als purpose Electric System SRP \$73.95

#### CORDLESS/ RECHAREABLE ERASER

Contains a trouble-free motor that derivers up to 4,500 rpm, fully charged Vertsatile, two-way operation -cordless or AC Long lasting rechargeable battery. break resistant LEXAN case Lightweight portable recharging stand power pack, plus a No. 287 vinyl stop eraser

-AR-2850C Cordiess Rechargeable SRP \$96 95

 KOH-I-NOOR ERASER RE-FILLS

-AR-ER285 Yellow, Imbibed ink 10/box SRP \$6 95 -AR-ER287 Soft Vinyi pencil 10/box SRP \$5.95

ALVIN ELECTRIC ERASER

Durable high-quality UL listed unit Uses of a full 7" eraser eliminates the annoyance of stopping constantly during heavy workload periods to insert short erasers Unbreakable LEXAN casing fits the hand comfortably and can be hung by a convenient ring. The heavy duty AC motor eliminates the continual repair problems of typical lightweight erasers Motor cooling vent locations are designed to allow cool operation even under heaviest workloads

-AR-EE1754 With slip-chuck SRP \$85.00

**PENCILS & QUILL PENS** 

Non-Photo Blue Pencil

Makes marks not appear when artwork is reproduced. Very useful.

- AR-761-5 Non-photo Blue Pencil \$ 60

Quill Inking Pen

Quill Pens offers super-fine flexible point.

AR-H9432 Quill Inking Pen #102 (Tip & Holder) \$3.25

- AR-H9402 12 Crow Quill #102 Tips (Inking Pen Nibs only) \$13.95



#### **ERASERS**

FABER-CASTELL 4 PEN SET

Set includes 4 nibs S F M and

brush.

-AR-FC167100

SRP \$9.00

 Kneaded Eraser Gray soft bendable eraser used for pencil and charcoal.

- AR-1224 Kneaded Rubber Eraser Large \$1.15



Magic-Rub Eraser

Eraser especially developed for sensitive surfaces, will not mark of smudge

-AR-1954FC-1 Magic-Rub Eraser \$ 95



Fabric Codes Control Control Control Control

 Eraser Pencita Peel off wrap ideal for detail erasing.

- AR-400 Eraser Pencils \$1.15

 Erasing Shield Metal shield with different sizes and shapes.

· AR-FT-5370 Erasing Shield \$1 10

PENCIL SHARPNER Canister Sharpener offers metal blades with high impact plastic container.

 AR-MR906 Canister Sharper \$3.95



· Pentel Clic

Pen style holder, retract as needed.

- AR-ZE-21C Pentel Clic Eraser/ Holder \$1.95

- AR-ZER-2 Pentel Retill Erasers \$1.75



Mars Plastic Eraser - AR-STD526-50 \$1,00

ALVIN PENSTIX

Graphic waterproof drawing pen offering India Ink density. Black permanent drawing ink.

- AR-4013-EEF 0,3mm \$1.55

- AR-4017-F 0.7mm \$1.55

- AR-4015-EF 0.5mm \$1.55 Penstix Set

includes all 3 Pentrix Sizes AR-4033 .3mm,.7mm,.5mm \$4.45

 Pensitix Drawing/Sketching Markers

Offers maximum India drawing ink like density. Black waterproof permanent ink.

- AR-3013-EEF 0.3mm ExEx Fine

- AR-3015-EF 0.5mm Ex Fine \$1.55

- AR-3017-F 0.7mm Fine \$1.55 Pentrix Drawing/Sketching

**Marker Set** 

Set of all 3 sizes.

- AR-3033 Set of 3.3..5..7 mm \$4 45

### Laboration Care Constitution

\$3.00

 SAKURA PIGMA BRUSH Archival performance with flexible brush style nib. Very fine lines or broad strokes. Water/chem. proof + fade resistant.

- AR-XSDK-BR-49 Black

Sakura Pigma Micron

Available in six point sizes Waterproof chemical proof and fade resistant and will not smear or

feather when dry -AR-XSK005-49 20mm black 32 9F -AR-XSK01-40 25mm black \$2.95 -AR-XSK02-49 30mm brack \$2.95 -AR-XSK03-49 35mm black \$2.95 -AR-XSK05-49 45mm black \$2.95 AR XSK08-49 Stimm black \$2.95 -AR-30061 3-pk 25 35, 45 Se 00 -AR-30062 Art sizes branck \$16.00 ALVIN DRAWING PEN MARKERS

 Tech-Liner Super Point **Drawing Pen/Markers** Permanent waterproof ink that dries instantly. Nibs set in stainless steel sleeves for protection.

- AR-TL01 0.1mm AR-TL02 0.2mm 3 95 - AR-TL03 0.3mm \$1.95 - AR-TL04 0,4mm 51 35 - AR-TLOS 0 5mm \$1 95

Tech-Liner Super Point **Drawing Pen/Markers Sets** 

- AR-TLP5 set of 5 All above \$5.50 - AR-TLP3 set-3 (1, 3, 5mm) \$5.75



KOH-I-NOOR RAPIDOGRAPH PENS

Rapidograph Pens are made of impact and chemical-resistant components for drawing and specialty inks. Good balance and self-polishing stainless steel points. (Tech Pens)

-AR-3165-06/0 Size 6x0 (,13mm) \$27.00 -AR-3165-02 Size #2 (6mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-04/0 Size 4x0 ( 18mm) \$27.00 -AR-3165-03 Size #3 (.8mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-03/0 TSize 3x0 (25mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-04 Size #4 (1mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-02/0 Size 2x0 ( 3mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-06 Size #6 (1 4mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-07 Size #7 (2mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-01/0 Size #0 (.36mm) \$22.00 -AR-3165-01 Size #1 (5mm) \$22.00

AULERS

backing.

ruler) \$1 25

14 x 20 \$10 50

STORAGE BOXES

- AR-6880AB \$12 95

Sketch Pac 2-sided safe

\$ 50

Cork Backing \$5.95

Cork Backing \$6.95

 Stainless Steel Rulers offering flexible steel with non-skid cork

- AR-200-12 Steel Ruler 12 inch

- AR-200-18 Steel Ruler 18 inch

Plastic Ruler 1 inch with 1/16"

markings and metric markings.

- AR-18 Ruler 6" (plastic ruler)

- AR-FL419WH Pocket Portfolio

storing box 12 3/8" x 4 ¼ " x 1 ¾ "

- AR-C36 Ruler 12" (plastic

#### MECHANICAL PENCIL

Mechanical Pencil is precision made w/button lead release and light aluminum barrel.

\$8 95

- Mechanical Pencil 2mm.
- · AR-BP10C
- 12-Pencil Leads- 2mm. HB. - AR-BP2375-HB
- AR-8P2375-2H
- \$19 50 \* 12-Pencil Leads- 2mm 2H \$10.50
- \* 12-Pencil Leads- 2mm 28 - AR-SA02263-2B \$10.50 12-Non-Photo Blue Leads-2mm.
- · AR-BP2376-NP8 \$16.50
- Mechanical Pencil Sharpener Provides professional point for standard leads
- AR-BP14C Pencil Shapener \$10.75 (Mech. Pencil)





Blending Stumps

Sandpaper Pointer

Idea, for pointing pencils leads, charcoal and crayons by hand

-AR-3435-1 Sandpaper Pointer \$ 95

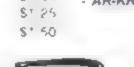
Soft paper left with double pointed ends used for biending charcoal, pastels etc. Use sandpaper to

report	
-AR-T811-1 1/2 x 5 4	\$ 50
-AR-T812-1 5 16" x 6"	\$ 75
-AR-T813-1 13:32' x 5"	\$1.00
-AR-T814-1 15 32" x 6"	\$1.25

 WORKABLE FIXATIF (Krylon)

Provides lasting protection. Prevents smudging, dusting and wrinkling.

AR-KR1308





#### SHARPIE MARKERS

-AR-T817-1 5/8" y 6"

Permanent markers with high intensity ink. Quick drying -AR-SA37101 Ultr-Fine Black \$1 %

- -AR-SA35101 Ex-Fine Black St 30
- AR-SA30101 Regular Black \$1.30 -AR-SA33101 Super Sharpte \$1.95
- METALLIC PENS Offers high quality metallic ink. Great for autographs.
- AR-SA46115 Gold Prin -AR-SA46120 Silver Pen \$4.50



**BEST-TEST** 

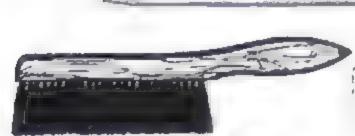
"PIK-UP"

#### CHINA MARKING PENCILS

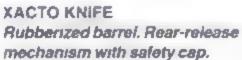
Offers moisture resistant, non-toxic odor-free pigments. Self-Sharpening. Offered as a dozen or singles

AR-173T Dr. Zen Black \$16.75 AR-173T-1 Single Black AR-164T Dozen White AR-164T-1 Single White

\$ 95 \$10.75 \$ 95



- DRAFTSMAN BRUSH Removes shavings from paper. Cleaning without fear of smudging.
- Draftsman Brush (cleaning) paper)
- AR-FT5391 \$6 00



- Xacto Knife
- AR-XA3626 \$5 25
- Xacto Refill Blades #1 - AR-OLKB \$6 50



RUBBER CEMENT Contact adhesive for paste-up and other graphic art uses.

- Rubber Cement 4oz.
- AR-BT138 \$3 50
- Rubber Cement Quart
- -AR-BT102 \$13 25
- Rubber Cement Thinner Pint
- AR-BT201 \$8 50
- Rubber Cement Pick-Up (eraser)
- AR-BT700 \$1 50

#### Palette Tray

7" by 5" plastic tray works excellent for holding inks AR-CW161 SRP \$1 95

#### T-SQUARES

 Plastic T-squares offering flexible plastic with both metric and standard measurements

- AR-HX02 Plastic 12" \$3.95 - AR-NBA18 Plastic 18"
- \$7.35 - AR-NBA24 Plastic 24" \$10.95
- Aluminum T-squares offering hard tempered aluminum blade riveted to a rugged plastic head
- AR-FR63-112 Alum, 12" \$10.95 · AR-FR63-118 Alum, 18" \$12.95



#### **TRIANGLES**

High quality triangles made of .080" acrylic. Raised inking edges. Great for Inkers.

- . 30" x 60"W/ Inking Edge
- AR-1204-60 Triangle 30"x60" 4 inch \$3.50
- AR-1206-60 Triangle 30"x60"
- 6 inch \$4.50
- AR-1208-60 Triangle 30"x60" 8 inch \$5.50.
- AR-1210-60 Triangle 30"x60" 10 mch \$5.50
- AR-1212-60 Triangle 30" x60"
- 12 Inch 58 50
- AR-1214-80 Triangle 30" x60" 14 Inch \$16.50
- 45" X 90"W/ Inking Edge
- AR-1204-45 Triangle 45"x90" 4 inch \$4.50
- AR-1206-45 Triangle 45"x90"
- 8 Inch \$5.50 AR-1208-45 Triangle - 45"x90"
- 8 Inch \$7.50 - AR-1210-45 Triangle - 45"x90"
- 10 inch \$9.50.
- AR-1212-45 Triangle 45"x90" 12 inch \$13.50

#### COMPASS SET

Geometry set includes ruler, compass, two triangles, protractor, eraser, and sharpener.

- 8-piece Geometry Set
- AR-HX18807 \$4 95
- 8-Piece Geometry Set (brass compass)
- AR-723405 \$7 95
- Basic Geometry Set
- 4-piece Geometry Set (Ruler, 12' protractor, 30/60 + 45/90 triangles)
- AR-FL03 \$5 95

Compass Set

pointer

\$16.95

6 piece drawing set contains

Small side screw compass 5 15"

self-centering knee joint compass/

pen adapter, divider point and lead

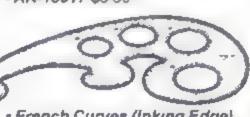
divider extension bar technical

•ARHLX01330-01330 Set

# CIRCLE TEMPLATES /

FRENCH CURVES / ELLIPSE **TEMPLATES** 

- Circle Templates Metric and standard. Risers for smear-free drawing. (Great for Inkers)
- Large Circles
- -AR-13001 \$7 95
- Extra Large Circles -AR-13011 \$8 50



- French Curves (Inking Edge)
- AR-9000 Set \$6 95
- Ellipse Temps.
- AR-PK12691 \$12 00



#### Circle Templates Set of 3

This set of 3 templates provides ninety-eight different circles and edge scales in 50th 16th and 10th as well as mm and centering lines. Sizes ranging from 1/32 inches to 3 1/2 inches

- ITEM #AR-TD404 SRP \$17.95
- Ellipse Tempate
- -AR-PK12691 \$12.00

#### **Brush Box**

This 12" by 4" by 1 1/2" sturdy wooden box protects your valuable brushes and pens

AR-YK23000 SRP





Tracing Paper

The 504 Tracing Paper has excellent transparency and tooth. It is used for rough sketches and overlays. Fine surface is ideal for pencil markers and inks

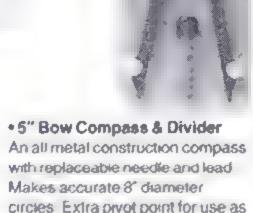
- AR-HUN-243-123 (9"x12") 50 Sheets **\$4.95**
- AR-HUN-243-131 (11"x14") 50 Sheets \$6.95
- AR-HUN-243-143 (14"x17") 50 Sheets \$9.95
- AR-HUN0243-163 (19"x24") 50 Sheets \$17.95

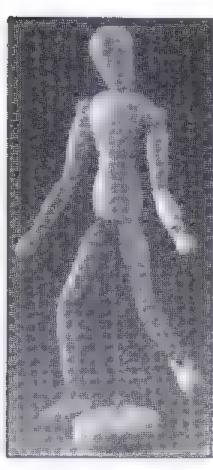


circles. Extra prvot point for use as a divider

-AR-494 5" Bow Compass \$ 4 95



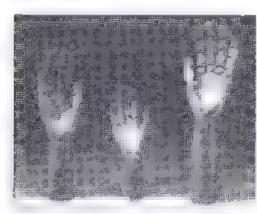




#### Wooden Mannequins

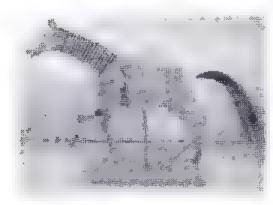
Great for modeling proportions and poses at any angle. Made from carved hardwood

- AR-AA3045 4 5" Male SRP \$7.95
- AR-CLY9020 12 Male SRP \$19.95
- AR-CLY9019 12 Female SRP \$19.95
- AR-CLY9042 20° Male SRP \$29.95
- 12"Unisex Wooden Mannequin Human Adult figure mannequin with perfect proportions adjustable joints for posing. Great for modeling propodions involving angles. Made from carved hardwood 12" in height. -AR-CW201 12" Model SRP \$9 95



 Hand Mannequins Life-like hardwood hand mannequins are fully articulated. Comes in three sizes male female and child

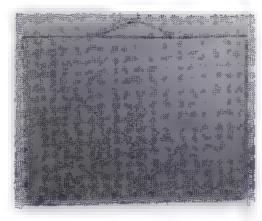
- -AR-HM3 14" Maie Hand SRP \$49 95
- -AR-AA3212L Male Left Hand SRP \$39.95
- -AR-HM4 12" Female Hand SRP \$48.95
- -AR-HM5 9" Child Hand SRP \$42.95



 12" Horse Wooden Manikan -AR033090410 SRP \$99.00



 12" Lizard Wooden Mannegum - AR056090440 SRP \$17.99



#### PRESENTATION CASES (PORTFOLIO)

Spine mounted handle allows pages to hang property to avoid wrinkling Features 1" brack superior quality rings (Does not snag pages) Includes 10 archival pages (#ZX) -AR-S1-2171 17" x 14"

SRP \$68 95 -AR-S1-2241 24" x 18" SRP \$110 50

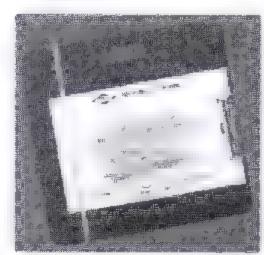
Refill Pages for Presentation Case -AR-ZX17 17" x 14" 10 pack SRP \$23.95

-AR-ZX24 24" x 18" 10 pack **SRP \$45 95** 



Made of strong, tempered masonite with cutout carry handle Metal clips and rubber band (included) hold paper securely in place

- -AR-SB1819 18 19 X 19 19" **SRP \$9 95**
- -AR-SB2326 23 ½1 X 261 **SRP\$**12.95



TYRANNOSAURUS REX

BRONTOSAURUS MANIKIN

CAT MANFKIN 7" length

DOG MANIKIN 6 1/2" length

MANIKIN 30" high

AR AA12902

AR-AA12901

MANKINS

AR-AA12300

AR-AA12400

28" length

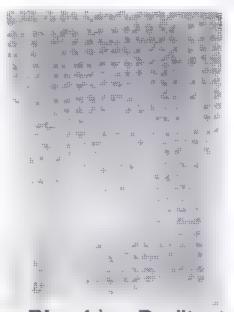


24 pages of acid, pvc, and legnen safe art sleeves. Archival Safe.

- AR-IA1212 Artfolio Book 11 x 17 w/ 24 shts SRP \$15.95 (Holds Blue Line Comic Book Art Boards)

- AR-IA 1214 Artfolio book 14 x 17 w/ 24 shts SRP \$25.95 (Holds most oversized art boards)

- AR-IA 128 Artfolio book 8 1/2 x 11 w/ 24 shts SRP \$7 50





Blue Line Pro"tects" Mylar Sleeves and **Backing Boards for Original Artwork** Protection.

MYLAR SLEEVE Fite Standard Comic Book Art Boards (11 x 17) MYLAR SLEEVE (12 1/2 X 18 1/2) 4 MtL. (Standard C B. Board).

MYLAR SLEEVE (12 1/2 X 18 1/2) 4 Mil. (Standard C 8 Board). AR-EG1218R-1 \$3.02 •10 Pack -AR-EG1218R-10 \$24.20 +50 Pack AR-EG1218R-50 \$96.50

 10 Sets - MYLAR SLEEVE & BACKING BOARD AR-EG1218S-10 \$35.90

STANDARD Backing Board (Standard C.B. Boards) (11 x 17) BACKING BOARD FOR AR EG1218R 24 MIL (fits 12 1/2 X 18 1/2) (Standard C B Board)

\*BACK NG

\$169.95

\$129 95

\$12.95

\$12 95

AR-EG1218H8-1 \$1.00 ●10 Pack AR-EG1218HB-10 \$8 00 •50 Pack AR-EG1218HB-50 \$32.00

MYLAR SLEEVE Fits Double Page Comic Book Art Boards (17 x 22) •MYLAR SLEEVE (18 1/2 X 24 1/2) 4 MIL (Double page C B. Board spread)

•MYLAR SLEEVE AR-EG1824R-1 \$6.00 \*10 pack AR EG1824R-10 \$48.00

•50 pack MYLAR AR-EG1824R-50 \$192.00 10 Sets - MYLAR SLEEVE & BACKING BOARD 42 MIL.

\$64.60 STANDARD Backing Board (Double page C.B. Board spread)

**4BACK NG BOARD FOR** 

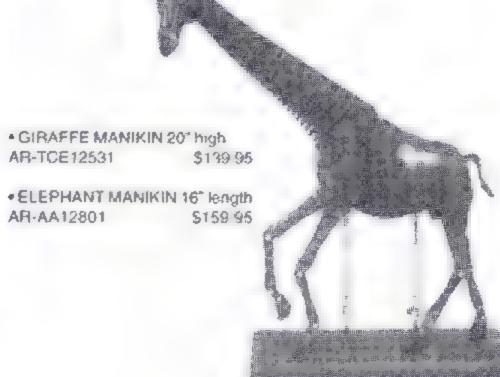
AH-EG1824S-10

AR EG1824HB-1 \$1.70 •10 pack AR-EG1824HB-10 \$13.60

+50 pack

AR-EG1824HB-50 \$54.50

Go to www bluelinepro com for more sizes, information and price



COMIC BOOK ORIGINAL ART SLEEVES Protect your original Art Work

 Comic Book Original Art Sleeves 11 1/4" x 19" Polyethylene (3.0 mil.) - AR-BAG 1119-25 25 Bags \$7 50

-AR-BAG 1119-100 100 Bag \$25 00



#### COPIC MARKERS, AIR MARKERS, TONES, REFILLS







COPIC Markers have been widery used in Europe and Asia where her co-oning qualifies go hand in hans with this style we know as manga. Their versalisty and variety lends itself to the imagination of the creator and gives him or their options for their creative style. The standard square designed COPIC marker is double ended and tast drying. COPICs have been specially formulated with a toner designed not to a score making them able to work directly onto photocopied surfaces and provide clear unbierreshed color. One of the best parts about COPIC markets is their refelable intal and replaceable rub leatures

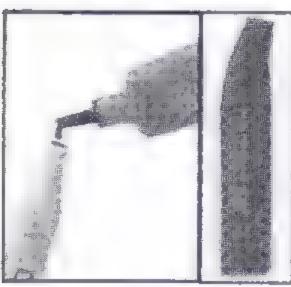
#### SINGLE BASIC MARKERS

-\$4.95 each

All Single Colors Available on-line at www.bluelinepro.com or call 859-282-0096

#### COPIC MARKER SETS

AR-COPTIO	COPIC 1.	2 Basic	\$59.40
AR COP112	COPIC 12	POS NG	\$59 40
AH-COP114	COME 13	PCS TG	\$59.40
AR COP116	COPIC 17	POS WG	\$19 40
AR COP118	COPIC 12	PCS CG	\$59.40
AB-COP120	COPIC 3	8 Color Set	\$178.20
AR COP140	Copic 72	Color Set A	\$356.40
AR-COP150	Copx 72	Color Set B	\$358.40
AR COPISS	Copic 72	Color Ser C	\$356.40
AR-COP160	Copic En	opty Marker	\$3 95



#### COPIC Various Ink (Refills) \$5.95

200 SERIES. One of the best parts about COPIC markers standard and sketch is their relillable ink feature. No more tossing out dned out markers. Just fill it back up again. and you're ready to go. Refills can be used. up six times. This relifiable feature gives you the opportunity to make your own color though mixing inks, creating an original color all your own

#### All Single Colors Available on-line at www.bluelinepro.com or call 859-282-0096

AR COP210 Var lox C sortess Blender \$4 95 AR COP220 Var Coloness Brender200c AMCOP230 Var ink Empty Bottle

#### REFILL BOOSTER PACK

AR COP BOUSTER 1 cap wheesles \$1.95



#### Replacable Marker Nibs

Another great feature about COPIC makers is there interchangeable ribs. From broad to calligraphy - provide greater freedom of technique in your renderings. COPIC Nibs. deliver clear vibrant color on photocopied surfaces as well as grass plastics and metals. The nibs are made of strong but flexible polyester for smooth consistent application. Nips come in a pack of 10 except. for the brush vanety that comes in a pack of

A -LINEA	
AR-COP300Standard Broad	\$4.95
AR COPS10Soft Broad	\$4.95
AR COP320Round	\$4.95
AR COP336Cattgraphy 5mm	\$4 95
AR COP340Brish	\$4.95
AR COP 350Standard Fine	34 95
AR COP360S (per Fine	\$4.95
AR COP3705em Broad	54 95
AR COPSSOCA igraphy 3rcm	\$4.95
AR-COP385 Sketch Nib Super	54 95



#### 400 Copic Tweezer Our special COPIC Tweezers give you an easy no-mess nib change that gets you

drawing again in minutes. Being able to change nibs quickly helps you keep up with the most demanding marker techniques. AR COP4CO THRUZEL \$4 20

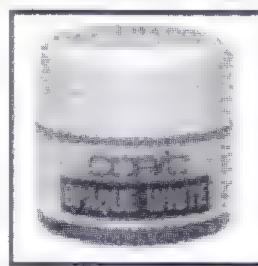
#### SINGLE SKETCH MARKERS \$4 95

The oval designed Sketch COPIC marker is double-ended and is fast drying. COPICs have been specially formulated with a toner designed not to dissolve making them able to work directly onto photocopied surfaces and provide clear unblem shed color COPIC Sketch markers oval body profile gives you a feel of a fast flowing expenence in your hands. It paints as well as it draws. They come with a broad nib and a brush like nib, available in medium + broad and super brush making them great for delicate or boild expression (from fashion and graphics to textiles and fine arts lettering/calligraphy) COPIC sketch markers are available in 286 colors. One of the best parts about COPIC markers is their relatable ink and replaceable nib features

#### Single COPIC SKETCH Markers

#### All Single Colors Available on-line at www.bluelinepro.com or call 859-282-0098

AR COP450Cololless Brender	\$4.20
AR-COP451008iacx	\$4 20
AR COP45110Special Black	\$4.20
AR-COP4525 wetch 12 Basic Set	\$57.40
AP COP414Sketch 36 Basic Sat	\$178.20
AR-COP4565xetch 7% set A	\$ 196.40
AR COP4585ketch 72 Set 8	\$356.40
AR COP460Sketuh 72 Set C	\$ 356 40
AR COP462 SAER 5 72 Set D	\$356.40
AR COP95Empty sketch marker	\$3.95



#### \*500 Copic Opaque White \$9.75

COPIC Opaque White is a water based white pigment used for highlight effects. It won't bleed into the base color so it gives sharp fine definition and can be used on watercolor. as well as other permanent ink surfaces AR-COP500 Opaque White \$9.75



#### COPIC PAPERS

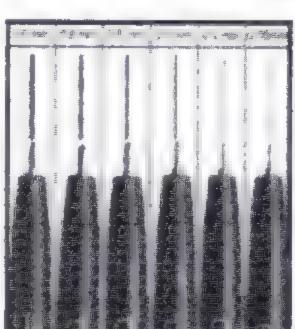
AR COP510Copic Alcohol Market Pad A4 AH COP520Copic A coho: Marker Pad B4 \$19.95 AR COP530Manga Manuscript Paper A4

AH COP540Manga Manuscript Paper B4

#### \$9.95 MARKER STORAGE

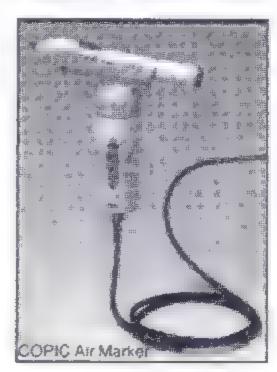
AR COPS5072 pc Wire Stand \$69.95 AR-COP56036 pc Block Stand

 COPIC's MULTI LINERS drawing pens allow drawing without annoying running ink. They are available in pens and brush. The pens come in a wide range of line widths



(from Q5 to 1 0 mm) while the brushes come in three different sizes, small medium and large.

<ul> <li>MULTILINERS SINGLI</li> </ul>	ES
AR COPECO Multimer 05	\$2.50
AR COPE10 Must mer 0.1	\$2.50
AR COPERS Mullimer 0.3	\$2 50
AR COPESO Multimer 0.5	\$ < 50
AR COPEAU Mulliper 6.8	\$2.50
AR COPF50 Multimer 1.0	\$2.50
AR COP660 Multimer Bra	sh M \$2.95
AR COP670 Me himer Bru	
AR COP671 Sepia ML C5	\$2.50
AR COPAJ2 Sepa Mt 1	\$2.50
AR COP673 Sepia Mc. 3	\$2.50
AR COP674 Grey ML 05	\$2.50
AR COP675 Gray ML 1	\$2.60
AR-CGP676 Grey ML J	\$2.50
• SFTS	
AR COP690 Multimer Set	A \$15.90
AR COP690 Multirer Set	B \$20 00



#### AIR MARKERS

#### 705 ABS-1 Kit

ABS-1 Kir. COPIC Markers can be used as an airbrush by inserting the broad top end of the pen into our uniquely designed adapter. The Airbrush feature is wonderful for creating. backgrounds and filling in larger areas of

If comes with 1. Air Grip (where the pengoes in) 2. The air adapter (where the emptycanister that the air grip screws on to. This canister is just a reservoir it does not contain. air ) 3. The airhose (this connects from the bottom of the air adapter to the top of the aircan.) 4. The aircan 80.5. The air can holder. (a foam square with 3 holes in it so that you can stand the different sizes of aircans.) This kit has all of the components in it for someone who would like to have portability but have to option to connect if to a compressor. AR COP705 ABS-1 Kit \$66.95

• 710 Starting Set ABS-2

Set ABS 2 COPIC Markers can be used as an airbrush by inserting the broad top end of the pen into our uniquely designed adapter. The Airbrush feature is wonderful for creating. backgrounds and filling in larger areas of space. The Airbrush tool creates little or no mess and allows for nearly instant change in color. It's simple to use - just attach one end of the COPIC Airbrush hose to a standard airbrush compressor and theother to the COPIC Airbrush adapter and you're ready to go. A compressed air can that attaches directly to the COPIC Airbrush adapter is available for portability This is the portable version of our autorush system. The ABS-2 Kit comes with a D-60 can of compressed air and the Airgrip This item is great for the artist on the move ONLY the D-60 arroan can be attached directly to the air grip because of some special tubing inside the can. The other sizes of aircans 80 and 186 have to be attached to the hose and then to the air adapter. They hold more air but are not so portable.

AR-COP710 Starting Set ABS 2	\$26.50
AR-COP720 Starting Set ABS 3	\$28.50
AR COPT30 Airgnp	\$19.95
AR COP740 Air Adapter	\$12.95
AR COP750 Airhose 144 to 5-8	\$21.50
AR COP755 Authore 1'8 to 1/8	\$24.95
AR-COP760 Air Qun 0.60	\$8 95
17 to 8 minutes of use,	
AR COP763 Air Can 80	\$10.95
(15 to 20 minutes of use)	
AR-COP765 Air Can 180	\$12.85
146 to 45 minutes of user	
AR-COP770 Air Compressor	\$186.50
NX Kits	

AR COP910 NX Kit 3 \$20.00 Starter kit to learn how to use color effects and techniques. Practice Sheets and a Color Guide are included





#### COPIC DRAWING PEN F01

Permanent waterproof, Stainless steel tip line width 0 1mm (depends on drawing pressue) Ideal for lining and lettering. Works great with rulers, disposable AR-COP 19948 \$4 95



#### **DELETER Manga Kits - Markers - Inks - Whiteout - Art Tools**

For the serious How To Draw fan, the Deleter line of products is here for you. The Deleter line includes color overlays, screens, jr screens, gradations, inking accessories, and the highly prized Neopiko line of alcohol based, double tipped markers. Give them a try today!



#### **Deleter Inking Accessories**

+ Pen (Nib) Holder

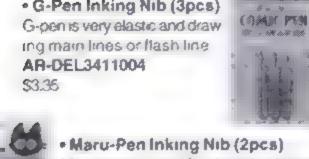
You can use this for all Maru-pens, G-pens Aa; pens (Tama pen)

AR-DEL3411003

\$4.46

DELETER

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Maru-pen is good for drawing details AR-DEL-3411002

 Saji-Pen Inking Nib (10pcs) Saji-pen is smooth and easy to draw all kinds of lines

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Works well drawing lines and painting AR-DEL3410001 \$5.60

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Permanent Inx. can not be removed with an eraser

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Deleter Neopiko Line Pen A super dark alcohol marker-type ane draw-

mg pen AR-DEL3115005 Neopiko Line 05

AR-DEL3115010 Neopiko Line 1

AR-DEL3115020 Neopiko Line 2

AR-DEL3115030 Neopiko Line 3

AR-DEL3115050 Neopiko Line 5

 AR-DEL3115080 Neopiko Line 8 AR-DEL3115100Neopiko Line 1 0

Neopiko Line Pen each \$2.85



#### **NEOPIKO MARKERS**

Neopiko markers are alcohol-based markers that are great for diffusion effects. Their dark colors contrast sharply with the whiteness of paper, making beautiful lines and clear vibrant colors. Great for coloring itlustrations and comics. These 144 different colored markers are available in sets. (Note Color Codes identifies the colors in that set Consult the Color Key )

 Neopiko Marker S1 Set Starter Set 36 markers 35 colors

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 Neopiko Marker 36A Set 36 - colors Coffee Ivory, Blash Pink Powder Pink Light Brown Ocher Beige Naples Yellow Light Orange Pink Beige Apricot Beige Sun Tan Anise Sweet Pink Orchid Pastel Blue Celadon Celery White Illy, Opai Green Pale Violet, Mauvette Saxe Blue Pale Sky, Sepia Garnet Old Rose Cobalt Base Periwinkle Ever Green Elm Green Holly Green Eggplant Violet Pump-

kin Cocca Brown -AR-DEL-311-0203 \$95.99

Neopiko Marker 36B Set

36 - colors Primrose Yeslow Marigold, Ice Blue Light Aqua Carmine Raspberry Lettuce Green Peony Light Purple Ice Green Mint Green Lemon Yeilow Brilliant Yellow Ceru ean Blue Strawberry, Signal Red Antique Blue, Grass Green Belflower Scarlet Magenta Vivid Pink Apple Green Cool Grey 1 Cool Grey 2 Cool Grey 3, Cool Grey 4, Cool Grey 5 Cool Grey 6 Cool Grey 7 Cool Grey 8 Warm Grey 1, Warm Grey 3 Warm Grey 5 Warm Grey 7

-AR-DEL311-0204 \$95 99

 Neopiko Marker 72A Set 72 colors - Pale Pink Shell Pink Peach, Coral Pink Sand Pastel Peach, Flesh Salmon Pink Maize Sunlight Yellow Cream Brown Gold Terra cotta Autumn weat Maroon Brack Yellow Othre Dark Brown Neutral 1 Neutral 3 Neutral 5 Neutral 7 Neutral 9 Pale Yellow Pale Lemon Aqua Green Baby Blue Pale Green Mist Green Pale mauve, Pale Lilac Pale Blue Solvent Baby Pink Baby Green, Aqua, Med Blue Turquo se Rose Pink Salvia Brue Steel Blue, Spring Green Vivid Yelow Moss Green Lavender Tropical Dull Pink Dandel on Sky B-ue Pink Tabacco Brown, Vivid Red Ultramarine Vivid Green Olive Green Iris Orange Cherry Pink Emerald Peacock Green Cherry Red Mustard, Burnt Umber Crimson, Poppy Red. Oriental Blue, Jungle Green, French Blue, Vermillion Royal Purple Viridian

AR-DEL311-0202

Neopiko Marker 72B Set

72 colors - Coffee Ivory Blush Pink Powder Pink Light Brown Ocher Beige Naptes Yellow Light Orange, Pink Beige Apricot, Beige Sun Tan Anise, Sweet Pink Orchid Paste Blue Celadon Celery White tity, Opal Green, Pale Violet Mauvette Saxe Blue Pale Sky Sepia Garnet Old Rose, Cobalt Blue Periwinkle Ever Green Eim Green Holly Green Eggplant, Violet Pumpkin Cocca Brown Primrose Yellow Mangold Ice Blue, Light Aqua Carmine Raspberry Lettuce Green Peony, Light Purple, Ice Green Mint Green Lemon Ye low Brilliant Yellow Cerulean Blue Strawberry Signal Red Antique Blue Grass Green, Beilflower Scarlet Magenta Vivid Pink Apple Green Cool Grey 1 Cool Grey 2 Cool Grey 3, Cool Grey 4 Cool Grey 5 Cool Grey Cool Grey 7 Cool Grey 8 Warm Grey 1 Warm Grey 3, Warm Grey 5 Warm Grey

-AR-DEL311-0205

\$180.00

\$180.00



Color Code T1

12 colors 12 Color - Pale Pink, Shell Pink Peach, Coral Pink Sand Pastel Peach Flesh Saimon Pink Maize Sunlight Yellow Cream

AR-DEL311-0101

\$32 99

 Neopiko Marker (Brown & Gray Set) Color Code T2 12 colors - Brown Gold Terra cotta Au

tumn Leaf Maroon Black Yellow Ochre Dark Brown Neutral 1 Neutral 3, Neutral 5 Neutral 7 Neutral 9

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Neopiko Marker (Pale Color Set)

Color Code T3

12 colors Colors - Pate Yellow Pale Lemon Aqua Green Baby Blue Pale Green Mist Green Pale mauve Pale Lilac Pale Blue, Solvent Baby Pink Baby Green

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 Neopiko Marker (Light Color Set) Color Code T4

12 colors Colors - Aqua Med Biue Turquoise Rose Pink Salvia Blue Steel Blue Spring Green Vivid Yellow Moss Green Lavender, Tropical Dul Pink

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Color Code T5

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Neopiko Marker (Dark Color Set)

Color Code T6

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NEW

Neopika SOLVENT Marker

-AR-DELK400

Neopika BLACK Marker

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TONE SET A

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AR-DI1015 \$9 99 TONE SET B

Times Basir Dric Send Laddetion Design Tensign AR DI0169 \$9 99 TONE SET C

" years Rouse on Salve Graduation busings Justige AR DI0178

\$9.99 Each set has different lones and artwork.

TRIAL PEN SET Contents 1 each Pen holder, Maru-pen tip G-pen tip, Saji-pen tip, 3 Postcard-sized manuscript paper AR-D10187 \$9.99

Yellow Light Orange Pink Beige Apricot Beige Sun Tan -AR-DEL311-0107 \$32.99

Neopiko Marker (Skin Variation Set)

12 colors- Coffee, Ivory Blush Pink Pow-

der Pink Light Brown Ocher Beige Naples

 Neopiko Marker (Super Pale Set) Color Code T8

Color Code T7

12 colors · Arise Sweet Pink Orchid Pastel Blue Celadon Celery White Ily Opal Green Pale Viole' Mauvette Saxe Blue Pale Sky

-AR-DEL311-0108 532 99 Neopiko Marker (Smokey Color Set) Color Code T9

12 colors - Sepia Gamet Old Rose Cobalt Blue Periwinkle Ever Green Elm Green Holly Green Eggplant Violet Pumpkin Cocca Brown

-AR-DEL311-0109 \$32.99 Neopiko Marker (Light Variation Set) Color Code T10

12 colors Primrose Yellow Marigold Ice Blue Light Aqual Carmine Raspberry Lettuce Green Peony Light Purple Ice Green, Mint Green

-AR-DEL311-0110

 Neopiko Marker (Middle Variation) Color. Code T11

12 colors - Lemon Yellow, Brilliant Yellow, Cerulean Blue Strawberry Signal Red, Antique Blue, Grass Green, Beilflower Scarlet Magenta Vivid Pink, Apple Green -AR-DEL311-0111

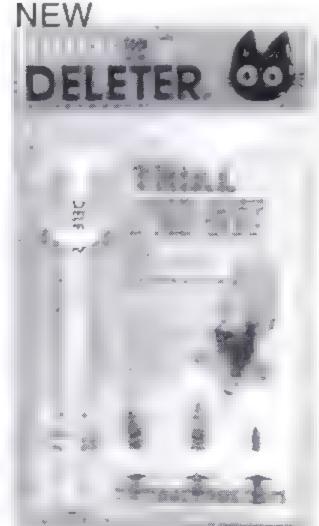
 Neopiko Marker (Gray Variation Set) Color Code T12

12 colors - Cool Grey 1 Cool Grey 2 Cool Grey 3 Cool Grey 4 Cool Grey 5 Cool Grey 6 Cool Grey 7 Cool Grey 8 Warm Grey 1 Warm Grey 3 Warm Grey 5 Warm Grey

\$32 99 -AR-DEL311-0112

\$3.35

-AR-DELK600





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Having a hard time finding a certain screen tone. We have collected all the tones currently available and printed a handy catalog. Great to set beside your art table

**AR-01** 

\$2.00

### NEW PRODUCTS Copic Multiliners SP



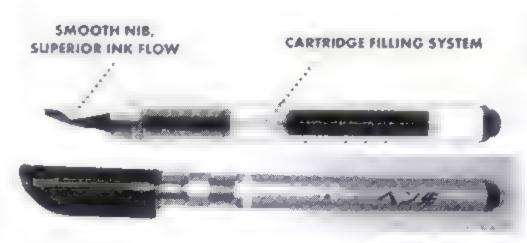
New waterproof, pigment based, **REFILLABLE**, SP Multiliners. These sturdy aluminum pens are available in 10 different sizes – perfect for all your drawing needs.

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### I.C. PRODUCTS Papers - Inks - Whiteout - Art Tools



#### TACHIKAWA NEW MANGA PEN

All the way from Japan the Manga Fountain Pen from Tachikawa is an incredible new art pen that will revolutionize inking as we know it! The fountain pen quality makes this a precision instrument featuring a chromium-plated stainless steel 0.2mm nib making it impervious to rust or corrosion. In addition the waterproof black ink is fed through a sophisticated cartridge filler system that resists the usual cartridge-based problem of ink flow and skipping (dry start when the pen touches paper). This pen is the superior choice for the discriminating manga or comic artist. The key is in the simple and elegant design.

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TACHIKAWA NEW MANGA PEN CARTRIDGE REFILLS (2-pack)

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4 Panel Manga Manuscript Paper
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MOKUSEI MARU PEN HOLDER N-17

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-IC-300908 \$4.30 MOKUSEI PEN HOLDER N-20

This wooden pen-holder holds a variety of nibs

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NIKKO G-PEN 3-PACK
Flexible pen nib capable of drawing thin and thick lines with the amount of pressure added. Manga artists in Japan swear by this multi-use pen Face lines are usually drawn by the

\$4.86

G-pen
-ARIC-302063 \$4.86
NIKKO MARU PEN

Nikko Maru-Pen 2-Pack Smail pen tip Equivalent to crow quill. This stiff pen-nib is used by manga artists for detailed lines such as eyes, hair and wrinkles in crothes.

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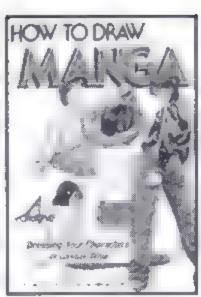
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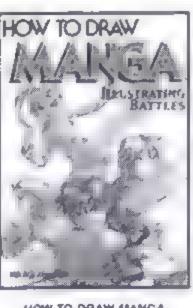
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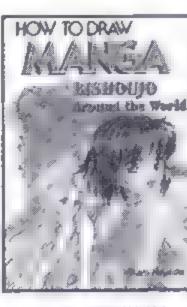
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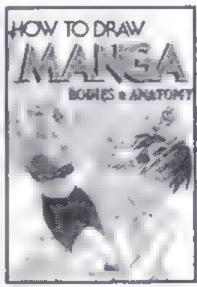
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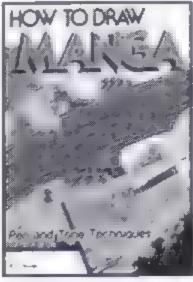
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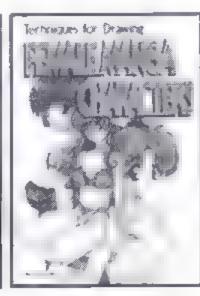
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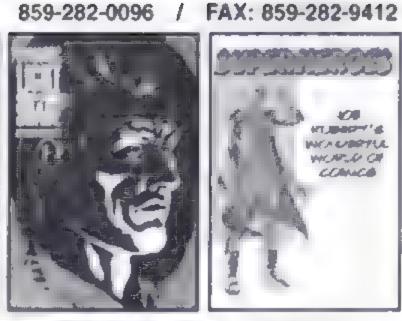
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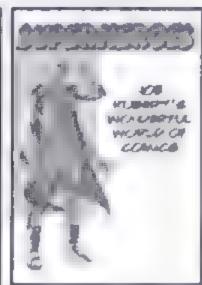
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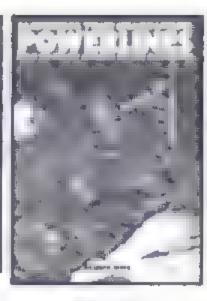


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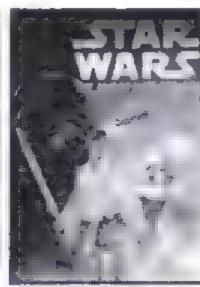
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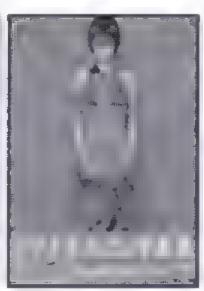
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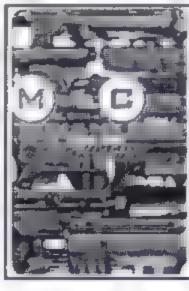
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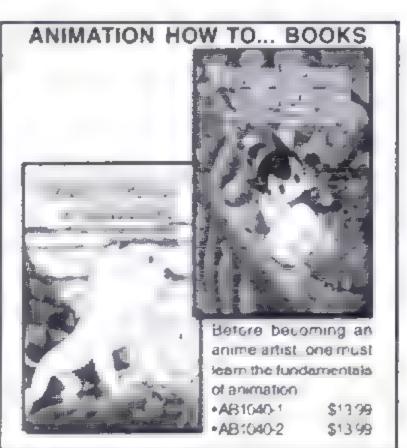
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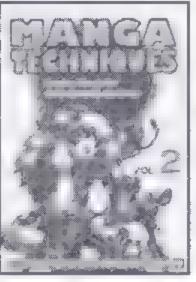
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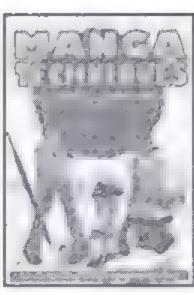
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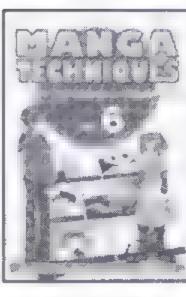
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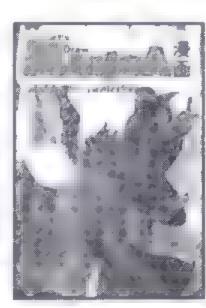
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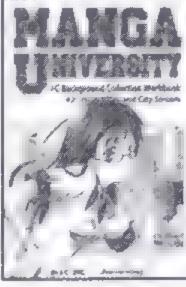
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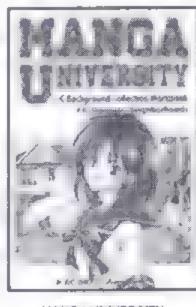
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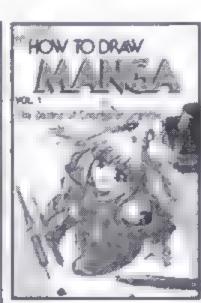




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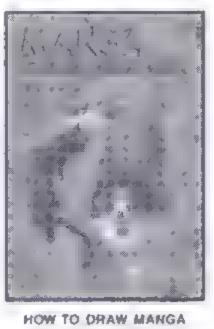
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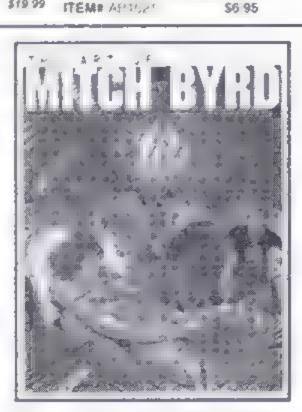
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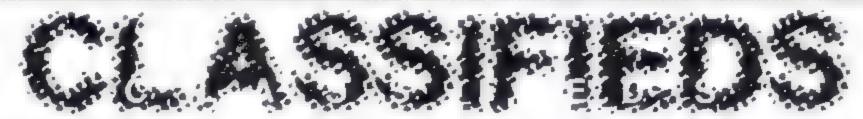
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In this, my "silver anniversary" 25th column for Sketch, I wanted to address the question of who truly is a writer and who isn't and what kind of person should become a writer.

The answer isn't complicated and those of you who know my point of view probably know what's coming, but I think it's an important and interesting question.

To illustrate what I'm talking about, let me relate a somewhat self-serving story from my distant past. It was a year or so after I'd left one of my jobs as a newspaper reporter. I was invited to have dinner with the guy who replaced me because. I was told, he'd gone through the back issues and become a big fan of my work. I was surprised to the point of suspicion because I knew this guy who'd replaced me was very different from me. I was a careful sort of reporter who mostly tried to get along with people and he was a gadfly type who relished stirring things up. I was a polite non-smoker and non-drinker and he was into what you might call hard living.

As our dinner progressed, it became clear his admiration for my work was genuine — to my relief, this wasn't some gigantic practical joke at my expense. At one point, though, he expressed puzzlement, saying, "How can a guy like you be such a good writer? Writers are supposed to be alcoholics and cynical and bitter and you're nothing like that."

Now beyond doubt, the great writers he was thinking about were not only bitter, cynical alcoholics, they were also far better writers than I'll ever be. But his question illustrates something we need to keep in mind — most of us have a mental image of what a great writer is supposed to be, and we can hold ourselves back and hold the medium back if we don't recognize this as a fallacy and work against it.

So with that as a preamble...

## 1. What does it take to be a "real writer?"

I think there are two levels to discuss here. To be a writer, a real writer, all you have to do is write out of a desire to write. Yes, jotting down a shopping list doesn't make you a writer, but if you spend an extra five minutes on a thank-you note to make it interesting and entertaining to its' intended audience, in my book, you're a writer. You're applying yourself to the craft of communicating effectively through the written word. Beyond that, there's the level of professional writer, which requires that you get paid by someone for what you write. It can be an article in the newspaper, a real estate listings or the blurb on the back of a box of Wheaties.

If you do it well enough to be paid for it, you're a professional writer. Some of us might want our club to be a little more exclusive, blanching at the notion of the guy who scripts the Old Navy commercials getting admission into the same fraternity as the great novelists. All I can say is that anyone who can master the art of selling something in 20 and 30 second snippets can teach a lot to those of us who take thousands of words to get our points across.

## 2. You don't have to be a good writer to be a writer.

In a way, I'm expanding the definition too much. A kid who picks up a guitar isn't a MUSICIAN until he's achieved some mastery of the instrument. My kids love to invent little improvised "magic tricks" that are as endearing as can be, but they really don't fool anyone. This very slight sleight of hand doesn't make them magicians.

So clearly there are a lot of people I'd define as writers who haven't necessarily developed any meaningful writing skill. But unlike music and magic, writing is very closely related to things almost all of us do—think and talk. Sure, you've got

to master a few basic rules of grammar and punctuation to write competently, but good writing is a lot more about the ideas and intelligence behind the writing than the punctuation. A good editor can correct the grammar of an intelligent essay a lot more easily than he can add intelligence to a correctly punctuated but dull-witted essay. And I resist the notion that you have to be "good writer" to be a real writer. I think many times our definition of what's good and bad has less to do with the actual quality of the thoughts in the writing than with individual taste and prejudice

## 3. Good writers should expand boundaries, not reinforce them.

Re-affirm the human spirit or not reaffirm the human spirit, disturb it's audience or not disturb it's audience — we start turning writing into something that regurgitates what went before rather than something that explores all ideas and universes. You turn writing into something that's repetitious and reflective of a set point of view. And no matter how important and valid that point of view may be, you're going to quickly start falling out of touch with everyone who isn't on that same wavelength. I think this is pretty much what happens when comic books, rock music, science fiction and other forms of entertainment find their audiences aging with them and younger people just not joining in. A creative community gradually starts defining what's good in restrictive forms, often abandoning the innocent qualities that once got their younger selves hooked in the first place. That's one reason why working with Keith Giffen on the Legion back in the early 1990s was such a treat. He and the editors actually brought us on because we were different than Keith. He was best at very intense, cynical and dark depictions — what

has played best in comics in recent

decades — while we had strong ties to the bright, fun, idealistic roots of the Legion. Our team proceeded to generate what may have been the darkest chapter in the Legion's long history, but with my wife Mary and me having a lot of input, there was still a real undercurrent of idealism and old-fashioned Legion spirit in the mix.

The universe fell apart around these Legionnaires but they didn't stop being the heroic group they'd been throughout their history.

## 4. We're talking about a lot more than just diversity.

It sounds trite to even bother to make the point that our pool of writers should include people of both sexes and all races, creeds, classes, politics, age groups and so on. I think few would disagree that all groups should be represented and encouraged to express themselves openly and vividly as writers. But this goes deeper than that. If the only way a woman or a black man can get a job is to write the same kinds of things as the white males already in that medium, then we really haven't accomplished much. On the other hand, a medium that's truly challenging itself all the time is going to provide a much more meaningful, potent forum to those female writers or black writers or any other kind of writers who manage to break in. And whatever a writer's background, he or she can do great things for all people if this writer is working in a medium that isn't restrictive and narrow. A white writer can explore issues very important to the black community; a Jewish writer can present a compelling case for the Palestinians; a woman writer can unlock secrets of the male mind; a liberal commentator can stand up for an unjustly maligned conservative, and so on.

In fact, my personal and quirky definition of a good writer requires the ability to truly understand the perspective of those who are

different than himself and to have as an overriding goal the advancement of everyone's interests. ESPECIALLY those different than himself. In my mind, writing that doesn't aspire to that, no matter how pretty it may be, isn't accomplishing much. I mean, many children and many adolescents can generate remarkable feats of intellect to advance their self interest. Becoming an adult and writing on an adult level means working those wonders not for one's own interests or even the interests of one's group, but for the common good.

## 5. So who should become a writer?

As I said, you know what I'm leading up to. People from every strain of human existence should feel absolutely encouraged to write. Our culture only becomes richer when the pool of ideas we're all contemplating becomes wider and more diverse. The fact is, true talent doesn't come in a predictable package and isn't incubated in certain schools or social circles.

Here's what true writing talent is: intelligence coupled with a passion to communicate and a skill at doing it clearly. And of those three qualities, only the third one involves much "book learning". The rest is just what you're born with and what you choose to do with it. Any literate person from any background who has got a basic ability to use the language can become a great writer.

## 6. How do I know if I'm suited to becoming a writer?

It's simple — if you're driven to write, you're suited to becoming a writer. If you don't really care one way or the other, then look for something else that generates more passion in you. If you really need to write, you simply will start writing and, bingo, you're a writer. That doesn't mean you'll ever have what it takes to get paid to write, but then, there are millions of guitar strummers out there who never

become professional musicians.

Many of them keep doing it, though, because they're driven to do it. And if you're truly a writer, you'll keep doing it whether you get paid for it or not.

There is actually a test I've come up with to see who's a "real" writer and who isn't. If you ever attend a comicbook panel at a convention and see who talks the most and the longest, it's almost always the writers. If an artist fights the writer for equal time. I can almost guarantee that eventually (if not already) that artist will be doing some of his own writing. For better or for worse, writers have something to say and enjoy saying it. whether in print or at a public forum like a convention panel. I'm not saying there aren't shy writers out there. I'd love to find one someday who really is genuinely more interested in what everyone else has to say than what he has to say (I think Roy Thomas is as close as I've met to a writer with this great quality). I'm probably one of the shyer writers, and will remain quiet in some circumstances until I feel pretty secure and accepted. But when I do feel a margin of safety, well. Katie bar the door. You want an opinion on something? I'll have it. And that's really what being a writer means. Having something to say.

## 7. Try to make what you have to say worthwhile.

Of course, a lot of people are very free with their opinions and are simply tiresome. Other people are very free with their opinions and are considered great writers. What's the difference? Sometimes it's a matter of perspective.

The guy who might seem like the biggest blowhard in the world to most of us might be a hero to someone who's discovering something new and eye-opening in what he's got to say.

But over the long haul with most people, what separates the opinionated people who are blowhards from

the opinionated people who enlighten the world is the quality of their opinions. Saying President Clinton or President Bush is a jerk doesn't do anyone much good. But criticizing or praising either President by discussing his record and policies with authority and insight makes you someone worth listening to. If you want to be a writer - a writer worth reading — be a student of the world and form your opinions based on intelligent observation and a broad base of information. Don't just try to sway the reader by stating your opinion more aggressively than the other guy; try to present information that will enlighten. One sign of maturity is the realization that zealotry is not a sign of deep conviction but a sign of insecurity. The people who are truly the most secure and confident in their viewpoints are the people who are most tolerant of disagreement.

## 8. When should an artist become a writer?

To all of you artists out there who think you may want to write your own comics, all I can say is: Don't take a job away from a writer unless you're truly driven to write. Simply wanting to be able to choose for yourself what you'd like to draw is no reason to eliminate a member of your team who has something to say and replacing him with half a member of the team who really doesn't have anything to say. If your motivation isn't your desire to express ideas but your desire to draw what you feel like drawing, try to work with the writer and get him to present his ideas in ways that more closely coincide with what you want to draw. If he doesn't cooperate, I'd work toward finding a writer who WILL cooperate before I'd make myself the writer in a case where the passion to write isn't inside you. And there's no rush. Issues and ideas that just don't mean much to you today may come into clear focus five or ten or 15 years down the road and

you may be ready then to become a real writer. Better to wait until you have something to say than to make a sophomoric statement that a decade later may end up directly contradicting a wiser judgement you eventually form.

All of that said, many artists are great writers and their understanding of comic-book visuals can be a gigantic advantage in understanding comic-book plotting and scripting. Even so, collaborative energy — the synergy that occurs when two creative minds prod and inspire and challenge and compromise — is reason enough for an artist to think long and hard before he decides he'd rather work without a writer.

## 9. Who SHOULDN'T become a writer?

Honestly, nobody should feel discouraged from pursuing writing. But the people I'd just as soon see push themselves away from the keyboard are the liars, haters and cheaters. Writing is a noble profession when your goal is to uplift humanity and writing is a corrupt profession when its goal is to

advance one's self interest by taking advantage of or deceiving others.

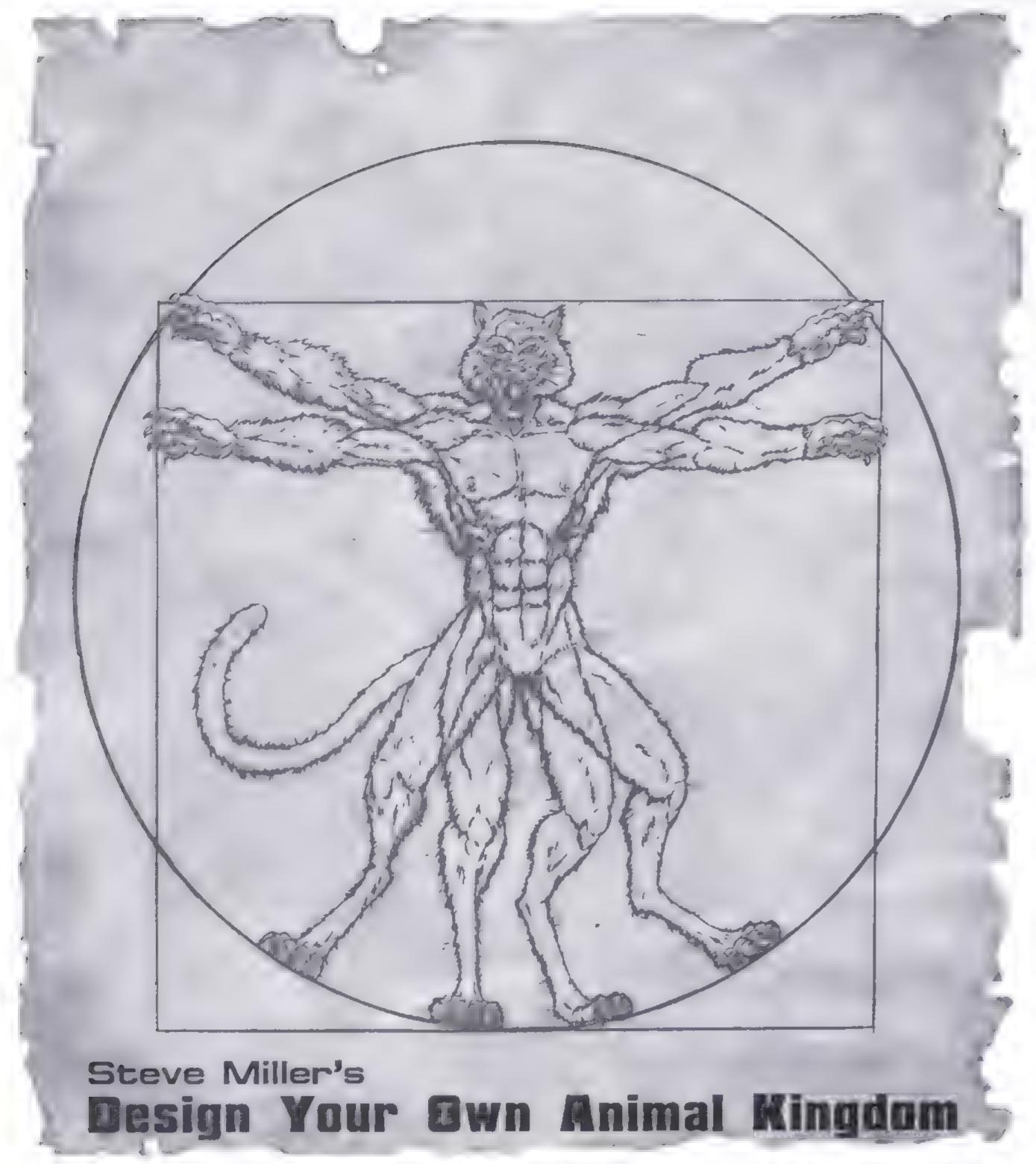
# 10. Does supporting diverse voices mean having to support those voices with whom we disagree strongly?

No, embracing diversity isn't the same thing as remaining silent when you strongly disagree with another writer, though the exact line that separates one from the other is a judgement call. Communities of writers should embrace and encourage diverse points of view, but there's nothing wrong with speaking up forcefully against those who misuse the craft to promote dishonest and hateful ends. Don't confuse the encouragement of diversity with acquiescence to bullies and crooks. Freedom of expression doesn't mean freedom from criticism, and the worst ideas should get the most criticism.

If somebody writes a super-hero story and you don't like the kind of super-hero he's depicting. I think it's harmful to the business and to our culture to try and discourage that writer in hopes you won't have to see stories getting published that you don't like. But if that person is writing a story full of distortion and falsehood to try and convince people, for instance, that a certain ethnic group is evil, I think you benefit the business and our culture by challenging that writer and actively discouraging him, not from writing itself but from writing hatefully and dishonestly. If we want this society to make the best choices from among all the ideas out there, we need to both knock down the barriers that keep some valid points of view from being expressed and at the same time make sure the flaws in hateful and dishonest ideas are as aggressively examined and critiqued as the flaws in any other ideas. Writers do make a difference in this world for better or worse, and taking this kind of approach just might help us make a difference for the better.



Arttwork by Greg Land StormQuest @ and TM Bobby Hickey All Rights Reserved



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to fly like a bird? Or swim to the ocean's depths like a fish? Or how about run as fast as a cheetah? Apparently you are not the first to wish for the these wonderful abilities: for as long as there has been recorded art there have been drawings of fantastic half-man / half-animal creatures.

Anthropomorphism is a big word simply meaning to give the qualities of man to things like animals, or manimate objects.

Anthropomorphic characters are found throughout popular literature from the works of fantasy novelists like J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis to children's classics like *The Wind in the Willows and The Red wall* series. Movies have made extensive use of half-animal people in films like *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *The Wolfman*. We've even been treated to a vision of a completely ape-man society in the numerous *Planet of the Apes* movies.

Today anthromorph characters run wild in comics, video games, toys, novels, television cartoons, and "furry" conventions. Genetic mutation, a science experiment gone awry, lycanthropy, or cosmic rays; whatever the reason, something has caused these people to stop being merely human and be transformed into fantastic half-man/half-animal creatures!



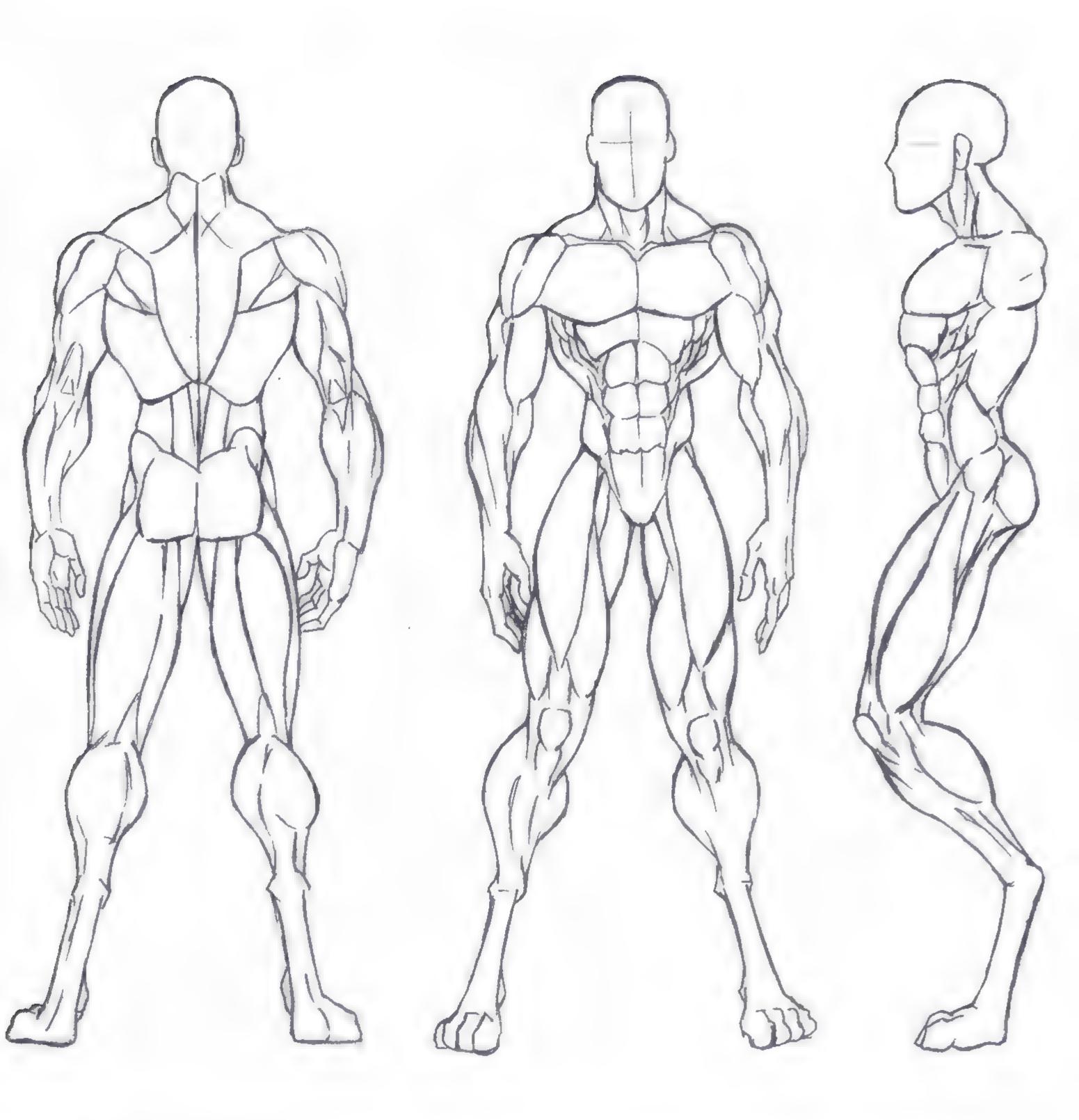
You will be building off of a basic human design, but you will want to modify your character with the specific animal traits. When possible get photo reference or study the animal directly from life. Pay attention to the shape of its snout, tail, wings, paws, claws, ears, fins, fur, beak, or whatever characteristics most clearly come to your mind when you think of that animal.

It is a good idea to practice drawing the animal by itself a few times before trying to incorporate it into your final character design. This will make it easier to fuse together the animalistic with the human as well as position your figure in an appropriately animal like pose.



#### Make it Solid

Once you are comfortable with the elements you wish to incorporate look at them closely to determine the foundational simple shapes. All objects in reality are made up of three dimensions: length, width, and height. If you are drawing a character with a snout like a dog or a cat you will be using a cylinder split in two for the base shape. Learning to see objects with mass as they truly are is the key to giving your objects a sense of solidity.



#### New Breeds Mean New Legs

Man is a biped, which means people move about on two legs. Most animals move about on all fours; they are called quadrupeds. Look at the drawings of a man's skeleton and that of a dog's. When the dog stands on its hind legs it is mimicking the posture of a biped. When a man is crouched over, like a runner just coming off a racer's starter block, he is in a similar pose to that of a quadruped. Notice the similarities and the differences between the two skeletons. Pay especially close attention to the basic bone structure in the dog's hindquarters, it is designed to facilitate movement on all fours. Notice what would be the wrist and heel joints on a human are actually closer to a "second backwards knee" joint in their function on quadrupeds. Incorporating this dramatic difference in anatomy will immediately make your character more animalistic.



Once you have the basics down start experimenting with different fantastic human/animal combinations. The wilder the better!

If you are interested in learning more on designing fantastic animal creatures check out *Freaks!: How to Draw Fantastic Fantasy Creatures* from Watson-Guptill by Steve Miller. It contains wonderful examples from notable comic luminaries like Art Adams, Brett Booth. Todd Nauck, and Mitch Byrd.

MciColinEs/Animals biped characters copyright 2003 Brett Bos th - Kindred 2 Couracters Copyright 2003 Wildstorm Colines



## Letters Forum

All retters received will be considered for publication. Letters published will be done so as received in regards to spelling punctuation etc. However tetters may be edited for length language, and or other considerations. All letters should be signed by the writer as well as including the writer's legibly printed name, address, and contact numbers (phone, fax, e-mail). Opinions expressed are those of their respective letter writers, and not necessarily shared by Brue Line. While open as a critical forum, it is Blue Line's hope and intention that correspondence maintains constructive and positive elements of criticism. Simple name, calling, rumor mongering, and or maliciousness is not of interest. Unless our editor does it.

Picase send your e-mail missives to sketchiefters a blue any processing. With all letters, please state clearly if you wish to have your address in print. We look forward to hearing from you

Sketch Magazine,

My name is Douglas and I'm a serious artist seeking to publish my own comic book. Yeah, yeah you've heard it all before.

But I do want to start my own comic book. I have drawings, plates, etc. All I seek is the information on "how". Which book would I seek out to start??? Please reply.

Thank you Sketch! Douglas Pope Wilson

#### Douglas,

Starting with Sketch was a good beginning. Now you may want to check the different books that Blue Line Pro offers in their catalog inside of each issue of Sketch. There are too many books to tell you the ONE that could help you. I'm not sure what you mean by "plates". Do you mean comic book art boards? Check BLP's catalog for books and supplies.

Dear Sketch,

I was wondering if the CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BOOK product tells how to make accurate comic book squares for filling in art and ballooning what the characters are saying. I've been searching all over the website, and I haven't found a tool that makes accurate comic book squares.

By accurate comic book squares do you mean panels? If you're using comic book art boards they have marks on the side that help you to make even panels. Since your panel size and placement will vary from page to page, once you decide the size, shape and placement you need, just use a T-square and the side markings as a guide and draw your panel borders on the art board.

В.

Well done, love the informative articles. Best - mh http://www.matthaley.com

Matt,

Thanks, we'll take all the praise that we can get.

B.

Dear Mr. Tom,

I have been a reader of Sketch Magazine from issue one. I have been enjoying your articles right from the beginning, hoping it would come in use when the time was right. The time might not be now, but I am going for it anyway.\*L\*

I am currently re-reading all of your articles and kinda squeezing them down to point form just for quick reference. I am starting to write scripts and I wanted you to know that I am going to try and use your tips and advice to try and avoid as many pitfalls as possible.

I also wanted to ask if there are one or two scripts you would not mind sending my way so that I can study them. Or maybe point me in the right direction on the web where some are available (I have had quite a few disappointing searches).

Thanking you in advance and I will share whatever I come up with you.

-PJ

You want scripts? Scripts you shall have! Chuck Dixon has been kind enough to post over a dozen of his scripts on his web site. (www.dixonverse.net) Go to the vault section. It is a great exercise to draw your own version of the script and then compare it to the published version. You can also check out the Powers Scriptbook by Brian Michael Bendis. It contains eleven scripts. Different writers approach scriptwriting in different ways. Compare and contrast the different script styles of different writers. Remember, there is no one single industry standard for scrip writing.



## Bobby Hickey's

## Conventions as Promotions

Now it's time to take a look at your convention setup and display. The average small press table is covered with copies of books for sale, along with various other posters and products, all lying flat. In the excitement of attending the con, an attractive display is often the last thing on your mind. It needs to be one of the first. As convention goers continue to walk by their tables without pausing, many artists scramble to find some way to make their table look more attractive. Remember, you have only a few precious seconds to grab their attention. A little bit of planning ahead will make the job easier.

Line-of-sight is very important. If the convention attendees can't see something that grabs their attention when walking by then you won't have a chance to show them your work. Hanging posters from the front of the table will work from a distance, but once they walk close to your table the posters disappear below their line-of-sight. People browsing at your table block these posters from other potential customers. Customers leaning against them when they are looking at your work can damage posters. Many times you don't realize that the poster looks bad until you get a chance to leave the table.

A background display is the best way to get and keep attention. It can be seen from a distance and can help someone locate you. It is a quick and easy way for you to identify yourself and your product. Not everyone at every con will be interested in every book, but people will be able to see for themselves that your book is one they might like to check out without making the commitment of walking up to your table.

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Check with your con organizer to see if displays are permitted and what restrictions they may have on them, such as size limitations. If everything is a go, there are several things to think about.

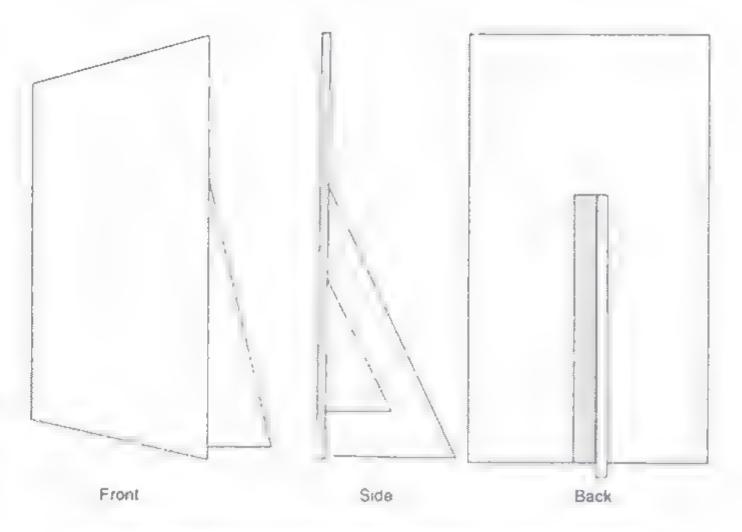
A single image always works the best. Why? When you walk down an alley of the convention you are assaulted with literally hundreds of images. If your display is crowded and includes many images, then you just added to the overload. Less is more. Your best single image gives you your best chance to raise interest and to create an impression that people will remember. Color is important, both to stand out and to create a lasting impression. You can use a simple color image, such as a large company logo. Create a large color image of your book's cover. Attach it to a piece of foam core or card board. The size is up to you, but be aware of your transportation limits. If it doesn't fit into your vehicle then you will be faced with shipping costs.

You will need a way to put up your display. Don't plan to "come up with something" at the con. Bringing something as simple as an easel can solve your "how can I hang it" problems.

If a display or back drop isn't allowed, then getting your product up off your table top is your first and last chance to capture your future readers. The one single item that I make sure that we have in our convention box (a small box that includes a razor, knife or box knife, packing tape, business card holders, etc.) is a pack of cardboard easels. These are easily attached to a piece of cardboard (or even directly to the book when I've forgotten to bring bags and backing boards). Most of the ones that we pick up are pre-taped, which saves time.

We recently picked up some tabletop racks for displaying several books at one time in a small amount of space. The racks that look the nicest are the long racks that offer three or four shelves that can face out your books or prints. A small spinner rack works great but they are hard to find. Any of these will make it much easier for a passerby to glance over at your book and give you a chance to snag some attention.

Remember that not everyone will like your comic book. If you think creating a comic book is hard, finding your core group of readers is three times harder. Just keep in mind that you build it one reader at a time.



You can make your own easels or purchase premade ones from an office supply store. Use double sided tape or rubber cement to attach the easel to your board or sleeve.



### Hilary Barta's

## The Shaddows Kindw

This occasional column will be about telling a story in pictures. I don't claim to know it all, or to be the best. But each time I start to draw a comics page or illustration, my goal is to tell the story clearly. I intend to show that each panel, each figure or object you draw—even each line—can help tell the story, or, conversely, hinder that story. The use of solid blacks and shadows in drawing is one of the best ways to help tell the story clearly and effectively. This column will focus on the use of shadows. The shadows know!

#### The Illustration

Return once again to that familiar far flung hostile planetoid, where our intrepid and square-jawed intergalactic mercenary is about to dispatch the drooling alien menace. First, I feel sorry for the alien. It hardly seems fair that he doesn't have a gun. So how come the alien is the "menace"? And why is he the "alien"? This is HIS planetoid—the intergalactic merc is the alien! And maybe he's drooling because drooling is his way of sweating, the same way dogs sweat. And maybe he's sweating because some intergalactic mercenary nutjob has been shooting at him!!!

I made the merc big and solid to show he's in charge. He is the hunter. Besides, I like the big rugged type of merc—the skinny ones die too darn quick. Having him cast a shadow on the rock the alien is hiding behind does three things: First, it adds a feeling of depth to the drawing. Second, it helps make our merc seem that much more solid and threatening. And third, his shadow helps tell the "story" of the drawing, that the merc is hunting the alien. The shadow of his gun hand "points" at his quarry, the hiding alien.

In fact, the composition points from left to right at the alien in several ways. The diagonal background lines of terrain and the diagonal foreground line made by the rocks and drool (or blood, if you have a nasty imagination) intersect at the feet of the alien. Also, the diagonal formed by the merc's upper arms, and the diagonals formed by his legs form a right "arrow" which points toward the alien. The line of bullet-holes leads to him. Even the rocky outcropping which he is cowering behind is leaning slightly towards the alien. The entire composition leads from the big bad merc on the left to the poor widdle alien on the far right.

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The alien is mostly in silhouette, caused by the shadow cast by the rock. This places him behind the rock, clearly showing that he is hiding behind it. The shadowing also obscures much of his anatomical detail, letting the viewer use their imagination to fill in the shadowy bits. This dramatic shadowing probably makes him seem a bit creepier than he would appear if he was fully lit. So, even though it is the alien who is in jeopardy here, he is still the monster of the piece and gets stuck with the monster lighting.

So, all in all, this drawing is not in the least bit fair to the poor drooling alien! Maybe his drool is a toxic acid, and he can spit on the merc before the merc shoots him. I certainly hope so.

#### Inking

I inked the drawing with a Pentel Colorbrush dipped in India ink. The ink bottle is getting all dry and crusty, and the ink has gotten all thick and black, just the way I like it for inking cowering aliens. Some of the hair from my dog gets in the ink and makes the work extra chunky!

That's it. Not very exciting tech-wise, but sometimes the truth is not very sexy. Do you want me to lie and make stuff up just to sound interesting? Get outta here!

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## BOOKS, TOOLS, ETC.



Digital Art Tutorials by Brian Haberlin

Brian Haberlin and his digital coloring studio have been responsible for thousands of colored comic book pages, including some of your favorite titles. With over ten years of experience in the comic book industry, Brian has developed some of the cutting edge techniques in digital coloring. Now he is sharing this experience on affordable cd-rom disks that work on PC or Mac computers. Brian currently has five CDs available that walk you through the process of digital coloring.

For best results your computers needs to meet the following requirements: 1024X768 Minimum Resolution, QuickTime installed. CD-Rom, and Sound Card.

#### Comic Book Style Coloring -The Spawn Way

Watch step by step as Brian takes you through start to finish the art of computer comic book style coloring, "The Spawn Way". This CD focuses on a Spawn illustration by Greg Capullo with inks by Todd McFarlane

Tutorial by: Brian Haberlin Program: Adobe Photoshop Penciled by: Greg Capullo Inked by: Todd McFarlane Approx. Length: 1hr 50min Format: PC/MAC CD-ROM

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Additional Files on CD

- Line Art File to follow Tutorial Layered PSD (Photoshop file) File to Inspect
- Swatches

#### Adobe Reader PDF Manual Detailing

- hardware
- software
- scanning
- color setup
- flatting
- separation setup
- and more

#### Comic Book Style Coloring

Brian takes you through start to finish the art of computer comic book style coloring, using a beautiful DANGER GIRL illustration by J Scott Campbell.

Tutorial by: Brian Haberlin Program: Adobe Photoshop Penciled by: Jeff Campbell Approx. Length: 1hr 30min Format: PC/MAC CD-ROM

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Additional Files on CD

- Line Art File to follow Tutorial Layered PSD (Photoshop file)
  - File to Inspect Swatches

#### Adobe Reader PDF Manual Detailing

- hardware
- software
- scanning color setup
- flatting
  - separation setup
- and more



#### Anime Style Coloring (Includes Two Different Tutorials)

Brian takes you through start to finish the art of computer coloring Anime style. Anime is one of the fastest growing art styles to hit the comic book market. Many young artists are illustrating in this style.

Tutorial by: Brian Haberlin Program: Adobe Photoshop Approx. Length: 2hr 30min Format: PC/MAC CD-ROM

**EXTRAS:** 

#### Additional Files on CD

- Line Art File to follow Tutorial Layered PSD (Photoshop file) File to Inspect
  - **Swatches**

#### Adobe Reader PDF Manual Detailing

- hardware
- software
- scanning
- color setup
- flatting
- separation setup
- and more



#### Sketch Painting using **Corel Painter**

#### (Includes 2 Different Tutorials)

Brian takes you through start to finish the art of computer Sketch Painting using Corel Painter

A free form of coloring, this style is gaining popularity in the comic book medium

Tutorial by: Brian Haberlin Program: Corel Painter Approx. Length: 1hr 20min Format: PC/MAC CD-ROM

EXTRAS: Additional Files on CD

Line Art File to follow Tutorial 2 Adobe Reader PDF Manual Detailing

- hardware
- software
- scanning
- color setup flatting
- separation setup
- and more

#### **Grayscale Painting**

Brian takes you through start to finish the art of painting shaded artwork by renowned artist Jay Anacleto.

Tutorial by: Brian Haberlin Program: Adobe Photoshop Penciled by: Jay Anacleto Approx. Length: 1hr 50min Format: PC/MAC CD-ROM

EXTRAS.

#### Additional Files on CD

- Line Art File to follow Tutorial Layered PSD (Photoshop file)
  - File to Inspect **Swatches**

#### Adobe Reader PDF Manual Detailing

hardware

- software
- scanning
- color setup
- flatting
- separation setup and more



## J. Scott Campbell's DANGER GIRL FONTS by Comicraft

This CD includes 3 Balloon Lettering Fonts, Complete Solid and Open Face Sound Effect Fonts and Bonus! Dingbat and Sketchbook Fonts.

We can't all draw like J. Scott Campbell but now we can letter like him. Comicraft offers the same fonts that are used on the Danger Girl comics.

The CD contains files for Mac and Windows (postscript/ truetype/ opentype). Works with Illustrator, Photoshop, Quark and most graphic programs SRP \$49.95



## COPIC MULTILINER SP WATER & COPIC PROOF PIGMENT INK PENS

Copic Markers, one of the leaders in markers with the unique ability to rebuild your markers, now offers the same ability in a Multiliner.

Copic has designed a very slick high tech look for their new Multimer SP pens. A nice metal barrow center combines with a tight fitting cap to keep your tips from drying out.

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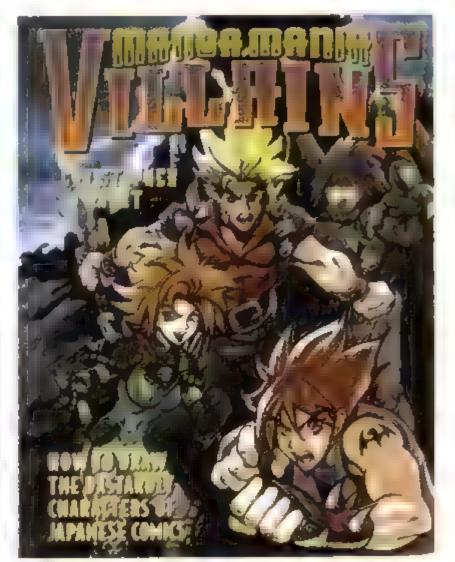
has designed a very easy and clean way to refill your favorite multiiner and keep on working. Copic Multiliner SP has made adding ink as easy as popping out the cartridge in back of the pen and popping in a new one.

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SRP Pens \$5.95, Pen Tips \$2.50, Pen Refills \$2.50



#### MANGA MANIA VILLAINS by Christopher Hart

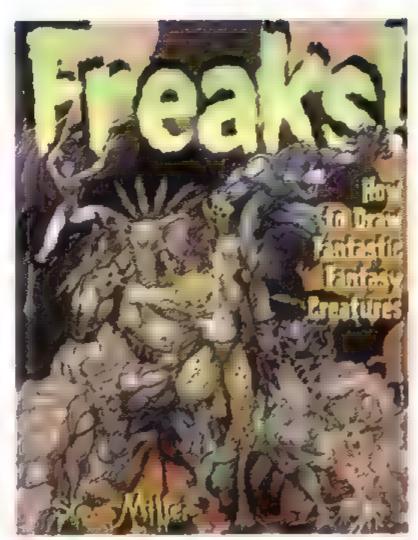
Published by Watson-Guptill Publications ISBN 0-8230-2971-9

SRP \$19.95

How to draw the dastardly characters of Japanese comics.

This book offers the basics of Japanese comic book illustration, which includes Evil Basics, Shonen Manga, Beyond Shonen, The Monsters of Manga, Glam Villains, Evil Action! Evil Power!, Weapons & Robots and Drawing Cool Scenes.

Contributing illustrators include Svetlana Chmakova, Brian Denham, Lee Duhig, Tim Eldred, Ale Garza, Christopher Hart, JJ Kirby, Andy Kuhn, Mike Leeke, Ruben Martinez and cover art by Pop Mhan based on a drawing and concept by Brian Denham.



FREAKS! By Steve Miller

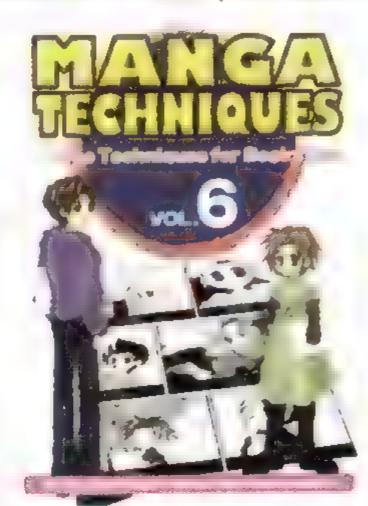
Published by Watson-Guptill Publications ISBN 0-8230-1662-5

SRP \$19.95

How to draw Fantastic Fantasy Creatures. This book breaks down the differences of human anatomy and animal anatomy, and then shows how to blend the two to create Freaks!

Contributing illustrators include Bryan Baugh, Brett Booth, Jessica Ruffner Booth, Mitch Byrd, Steve Hanmaker, Steve Miller and Todd Nauck.

This is a book of nicely colored images with basic breakdown figures. If you're into the animal-human illustration this book would be nice to add to your collection.



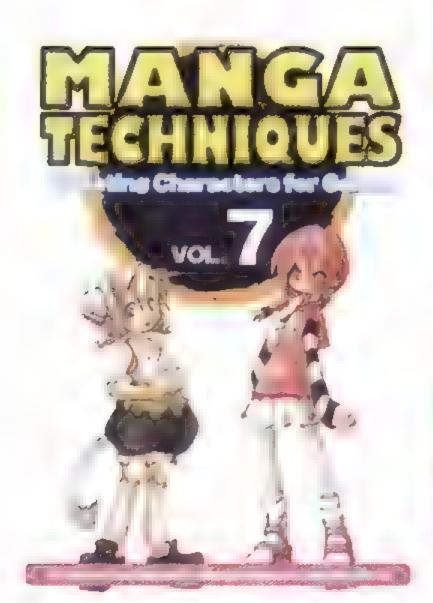
## MANGA TECHNIQUES Vol. 6 Tone Techniques for Beginners

Published by S.E. Inc. ISBN 4-88996-135-6 SRP \$12.99

This book includes How to Apply Tones, Scraping Tones, Stacking Tones, Various uses of Tone and sample images for practice.

Tones seem to add life to a Manga illustration giving depth, texture and even offering the sense of movement. Tones are becoming more popular in all forms of comic book illustration.

This books offer a lot of information on tones and how to be successful using them. If you are doing Manga or Anime illustration and you feel that your artwork lacks something, you may want to consider this book to find out more about tones.

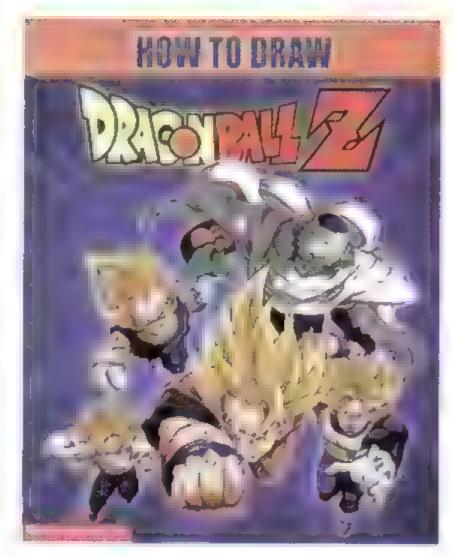


## MANGA TECHNIQUES Vol. 7 Creating Characters for Games

Published by S.E. Inc. ISBN 4-88996-136-4 SRP \$12.99

This book includes Basic Knowledge of Remember, Character Parts Catalog, Build and Animate Characters, Sample Illustrations.

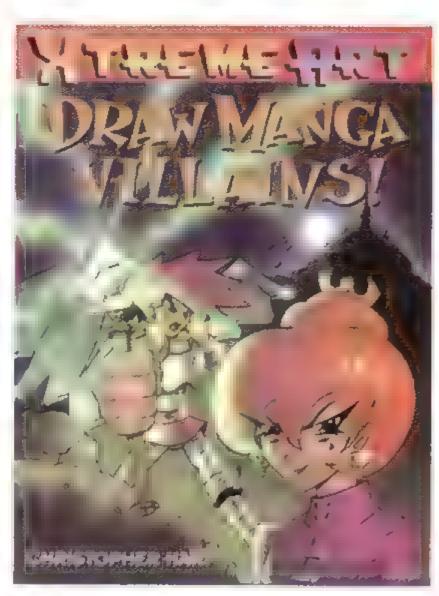
Even though this books title is Creating Characters for Games this book answered a lot of questions that I had about drawing my characters in a deformed state. A popular style in Japan, Deform and Super Deform is a cute way to illustrate a character. This book offers a lot of illustrations and how- to's to help illustrate with confidence.



#### HOW TO DRAW DRAGONBALL Z

Published by Scholastic Inc. ISBN 0-439-31348-1 SRP \$4.99

This book offers the basic character concept used to illustration Dragon Ball Z characters.



#### **XTREME ART DRAW MANGA VILLAINS!**

By Christopher Hart

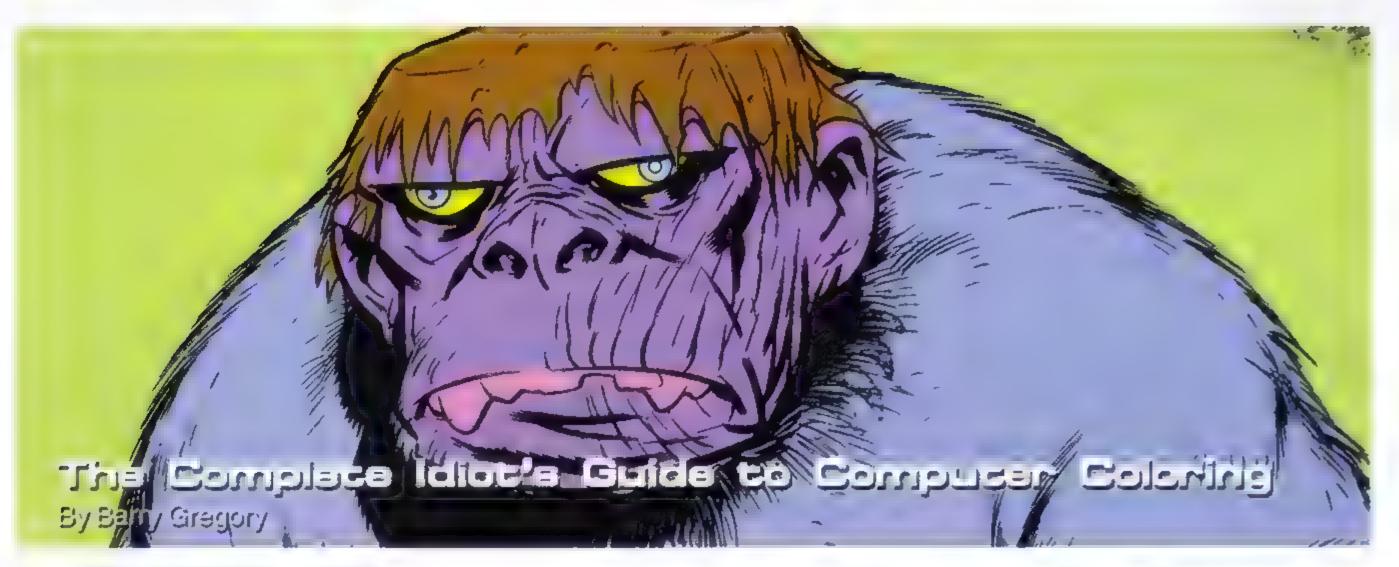
Published by Watson Guptill Publications ISBN 0-8230-0370-1

SRP \$6.95

This book offers a simple line art style approach to illustrating manga artwork, with an emphasis on the exaggeration techniques that make the bad guys look so bad!

Illustrations by Christopher Hart.





"Flatter? What's a flatter?"

Within the last decade or so, as comics have shifted from the "modern" age into the "photoshop" age, a new slot has appeared on the comic book production assembly line. It is a job with which most fans and many creators are completely unaware. The color "flatter" is the most unheralded and unglamorous – though somewhat **mysterious** – job in the comics production process. Even among the well-informed readers of this magazine, I'd give good odds that there are many who have never heard of a flatter and many more who aren't quite sure what a flatter does. I can tell you that – speaking as one who's hired a flatter or two in his day – that lack of understanding even extends to those who aspire to the job!

While I can't do anything about the glamour, I can herald and I can (hopefully) demystify. Let's start with a definition. In a nutshell, the flatter is a sort of colorist's assistant (though some colorists – myself included – prefer to do their own flats). I recognize that is a woefully inadequate job description. If it was sufficient, then this column would be over now, wouldn't it?

Traditionally, creators with the most time intensive jobs (usually pencilers and inkers) have sometimes hired assistants to help them stay on track with deadlines. In the pre-photoshop days of comic coloring a color assistant wasn't really necessary. As a matter of fact, *coloring the book* wasn't really necessary. It was often just a matter of writing

pantone codes along the margins and drawing straight lines to the affected areas. How the actual color got into the printed books had something to do with production people separating color by cutting screens ... or with elves and magic, depending on which story you believed. I was coloring three or four books a month with ease back then (and at the rates we were being paid you *had* to color that many a month just to afford mac and cheese.) Things have changed a lot since then. With the advent of digital color the colorist's profile has risen significantly, and so has the workload. For monthly production, a good and dependable flatter is an almost indispensable part of the equation.

The flatter assists the colorist. His purpose is to prep the pages (by filling them with color) and thereby save the colorist a significant amount of time in the completion of his work. Like the penciler's assistant (and the inker's assistant) the flatter's contribution often goes uncredited. But whereas the penciler's assistant can point to a given page in a comic and say with pride "I drew that building" or the inker's assistant can say "I inked that building", the flatter's work goes completely unseen in the finished product. He leaves no fingerprint. No trace of his work remains in the printed comic.

So what exactly is it that the flatter does? He selects, separates, and fills with color all the various objects and elements of the page. In effect, he *masks* out the page. This permits the colorist – with only a click of the magic wand tool – to select, for example, an arm. He can then quickly adjust the color to his liking, do any shading or modeling he deems necessary, then quickly move on to the hand and fingers without the expense of time necessary to lasso, select or mask the connect elements of the area.



fig 1

Let's take a look at an example. Here's a page I flatted from a recent issue of **The Goon** by Eric Powell. [fig. 01]

It starts with a blank page in either rgb or cmyk mode depending on what the colorist prefers. Personally, I prefer rgb, but Eric likes cmyk so that's what we'll do here. I'm using Adobe Photoshop 7.0. The line art is in an alpha channel which is inactive, but visible. Do NOT use layers in flatting. It is not only superfluous, but counterproductive. All you need is a background layer and an alpha channel for the line art. And never, never, never change the size or the resolution of the page you are given. Don't monkey with the line art at all.

Before beginning I check my tools. I use only two of them ... the lasso and the paint bucket. The anti-alias MUST be unchecked (off) on both tools. I can't stress this enough. Any areas selected or filled with the anti-alias "on" will render the page useless to the colorist. TURN THE ANTI-ALIAS OFF. On the paint bucket, the settings should be as follows ... fill=foreground, mode=normal, opacity=100%, tolerance=0, anti-

alias=unchecked (OFF). The "contiguous" setting can be toggled between on and off depending on how you need to use it.

The flatter should NEVER use the magic wand tool. No matter how tempting. Likewise, refrain from using the delete key or ALT delete combination to fill areas. I'll explain why in moment. Also, learn and use the keyboard shortcuts – "L" for the lasso and "G" for the paint bucket (among many others). They are a real timesaver and (as they are manipulated using your "non-drawing" hand) may stave off carpal tunnel syndrome for years.

The first step is to select all the panels and fill with color. Then select and fill all captions and word balloons. [fig. 02] You must be very precise in your selections. Zoom in very tight if necessary. Keep the "seams" of your selections "hidden" behind the line art whenever possible. Sloppy selecting, areas of color overlapping the line art and bleeding into other elements, is unacceptable. It forces the colorist to



have to clean up your mess. And any extra work a flatter creates for the colorist is counterproductive. Remem-

ber ... the flatter's job is to make the colorist's job faster and smoother.

Next, I divide the major elements of each panel into blocks of color [fig.03], figures separated from each other as well as from background and foreground objects. In selecting the colors for the fill areas I am making no effort to pick "good" colors. I'm just grabbing the first color I see off of my color swatch palette. A flatter should never make the mistake of trying to "color" the page for the colorist. It is the colorist's job to pick the right colors, to create mood and direct the reader's eye. The flatter is only to separate objects and make them easier for the colorist to select. It is a waste of time to stop and think "This would make a nice flesh tone" or "the cape should be this shade of red". It's not your job. Select the area and fill it



fig 4

with a color, ANY color so long as it's different from the color of the object adjoining it. Besides, the first thing that a great many colorists are going to do is convert your flats to grayscale and drop them into an alpha channel.

[fig.04] Once the figures are separated from each other and from the foreground and background elements, I begin to refine things ... separating eyes, teeth, and hair from faces, etc. Here's where using the paint bucket instead of the delete key or the ALT delete combination starts to come in handy. While the delete key fills the ENTIRE selection with the background color, the paint bucket fills only the colors within the tolerance range. That means that (with the tolerance set to "0") when separating the giant

ape's (actually the Goon transformed into a giant ape) hair from the background and his face I only have to be precise when selecting the line be-



fig. 5

tween the ape's hair and face. I can make a big, quick looping selection around the top of his head because the paint bucket is going to ignore that part of the selection and fill only the purple area.

[fig.05] The handiness of the paint bucket tool only increases as you go. Take a look at these buildings. Because they had already been separated from the ape, I only need to separate them from each other now. I don't need to precisely select the water tower to separate it from the building in front of it. I need only select the line BETWEEN them precisely. The paint bucket will fill color only within its tolerance range.

Here's another, but very important, thing ... don't overdo it! Look at the buildings here. Notice that in the context of the entire page that these are relatively small elements. I could separate the cap of the water tower from the base and the restraining bands from the base or I could separate the ledge from the walls of the buildings and the windows from the walls, etc. I could, but I shouldn't. That would be overdoing it. With areas this small, the colorist can easily shade and mold if he chooses without the need for masking. So let's say I did separate out these small areas and the colorist then decides that he wants to de-emphasize these buildings (maybe fill them with a single color or a simple gradient). In that case, he then has to merge the areas that I've separated and I've created more work for the colorist, not less. That's not good.





Similarly, a flatter should never create arbitrary dividing lines. [fig.06] This is OK. [fig.07] This is not. It's not the flatter's job to decide where a colorist

should make a cut or a mold. If the line art permits you to completely hide the seam between the chin and the throat of a figure then you might be doing the colorist a favor by separating those for him. If the line art doesn't allow that, then don't force it. Let the colorist decide where and how (if at all) he wants to divide them with color. Don't do something he'll have to undo. One more time ... the cardinal rule of flatting is MAKE LESS WORK FOR THE COLORIST, NOT MORE.

Here's the finished flats for the page. [fig08] This page is now ready for the colorist. Note that all clearly delineated, overlapping areas are filled with a color separate from the adjoining colors. That's what flatting

Questions or comments are always welcomed. Contact me at barry@01comics.com



fig. 8

## Inside Sketch This Month...



**Bob Hickey** 

Along with his duties as publisher of Sketch Magazine, he is the creative force behind Blood & Roses, StormQuest, and Tempered Steele. He currently has a Race Danger project in the works that will be appearing at Afteburn Comics. Bob is one of the co-founders of Blue Line Productions. He can be reached at bobh@bluelinepro.com www.bluelinepro.com / www.afterburncomics.com



WizKids/Mage Knight, Ral Partha, and other companies utilize the fantastical concepts pulsating from his Nyarlathopean pencil point – icing on the appendage after more than a decade of delineating disturbed, dark, and violent characters such as Grimjack, Lawdog, Manbat, and the occasional demonic Batman.





Beau Smith

Beau has been writing comics, columns, and video games for fifteen years. His past comic credits include Guy Gardner: Warrior, Batman/Wildcat, Star Wars, The Tenth, Wolverine vs. Shi, and many more. His creator owned projects are Parts Unknown, Wynonna Earp, and The BadLander. Smith's future projects include Maximum Jack, 200 People To Kill, Wynonna Earp, and Cossack, as well as the Maximo II video game from Capcom. Smith is currently the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for IDW Publishing. www.flyingfistranch.com

#### Mitch Byrd

Mitch's pencils wow everyone. While you enjoy his exclusive Sketch material issue after issue, look for his work on Guy Gardner: Warrior, Shi, Starship Troopers, and many other comics, as well as Blue Line Pro's Notes to Draw From and SQP's the Art of Mitch Byrd Volume One. Mitch's latest projects include a Blood & Roses protfolio and a creator owned project titled Kings of the Road from Afterburn Comics.





Tom Bierbaum

Tom, with wife Mary, has scripted such comics as Legion of Super-Heroes and The Heckler for DC Comics, Xena and Return to Jurassic Park for Topps Comics, Star for Image Comics and Dead Kid Adventures, a creator owned project by Knight Press.

#### Bill Love

Bill is a comics fan and amateur historian of over forty years. He spent ten years in television production (news and talk show directing and more) and another twelve teaching journalism and video production. He serves on the board of directors for a large city public access facility. Bill is currently using his journalism background to assemble How To Break-In to the Comic Book Business.

#### Hilary Barta

Hilary is a longtime comics writer, artist and inker. His work has appeared in WHAT THE—?!, PLASTIC MAN, STUPID, HELLBOY JR., RADIOACTIVE MAN, on SPLASH BRANNIGAN in TOMORROW STORIES, and in FORTEAN TIMES, SATAN GONE WILD and NICKELODEON MAGAZINE, as well as many other titles. He should be getting much too old for this kind of nonsense.

#### Steve Miller

Steve has written and produced many "How to" books like Freaks!: How to Draw Fantastic Fantasy Creatures at Watson-Guptill.

#### Barry Gregory

Barry is a textbook example of the old jack-of-all-master-of-none cliche. He has worked every slot of the comic book assembly line for publishers large and small, including a harrowing two year stint as the managing editor of mid-sized publisher. Currently, he is president and editor of 01 Comics, Inc. (www.01comics.com) a web-based comics publisher. Questions, comments, and criticisms can be directed to him at barry@01comics.com.

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